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- Other Notices (updated 8-21)**
- Frederick Town (Updated 8-15)**
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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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Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship with communion, 9 a.m.; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; WELCA serves at Groton Care & Rehab at 3 p.m.

United Methodist Church: Conde worship, 9 a.m.; Back to Sunday School Bash, 10 a.m.; Coffee Fellowship Time, 10 a.m.; Groton Worship, 11 a.m.; Back-to-Sunday School Picnic, Noon.

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.

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

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Homecoming Week

Elementary Dress-up Day: College day (support your local or favorite college)

MS/HS Dress-up Day: "Nerd Day"

Senior Menu: Spaghetti with meat sauce, broccoli, garlic toast, sherbet.

School Breakfast: French toast, sausage links, fruit, milk and juice.

School Lunch: Taco salad, tater tots, refried beans, fruit.

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

Cross Country: at Deuel

Homecoming Coronation: 7:30 p.m.

City Council: 7 p.m. at Groton Community Center

Fresh flowers, silks, home decor



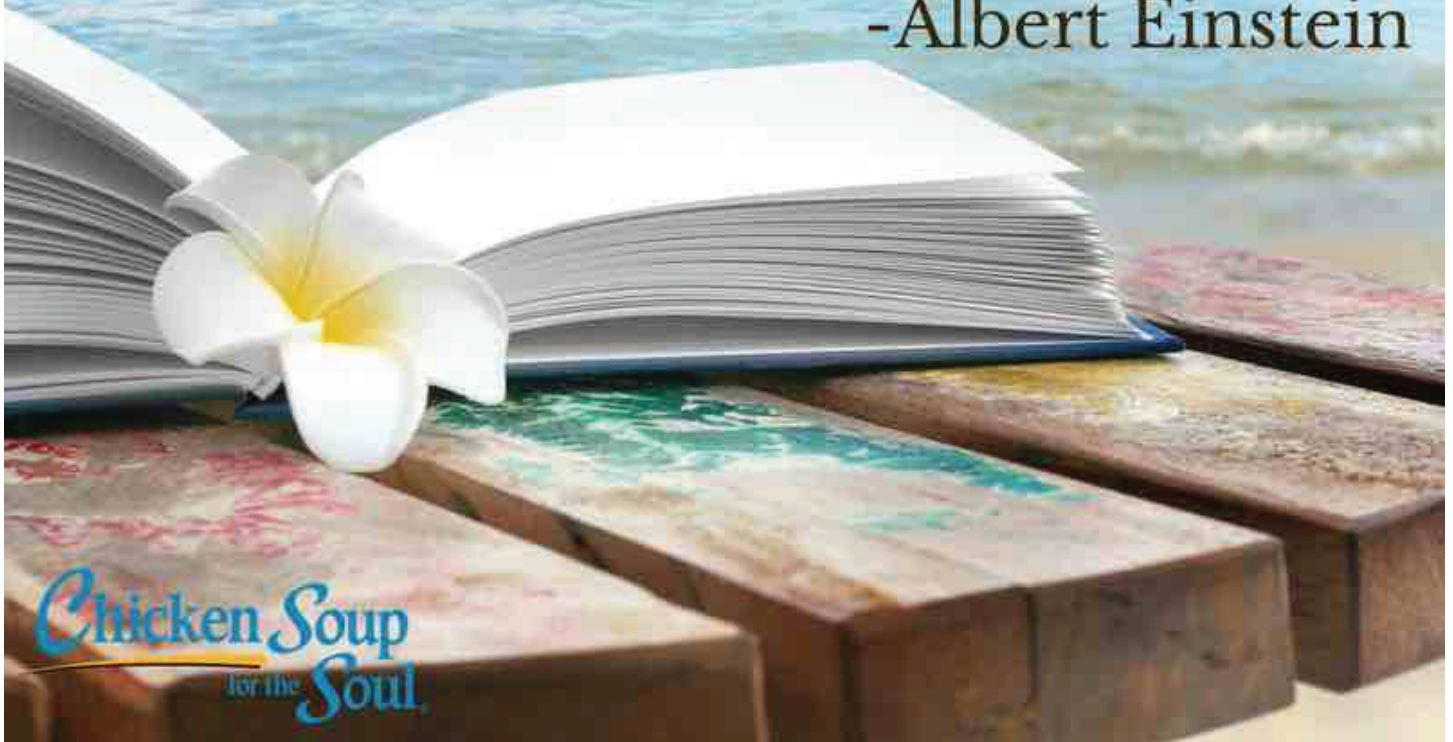
Olde Bank Floral @ 

& so much more

 101 N. Main St., Groton ~ 397-8650
www.oldebankfloral.com

“Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better.”

-Albert Einstein



SDSU Census Data Center

The U.S. Census Bureau released on September 14th a detailed look at America's people, places and economy with new statistics on income, poverty, health insurance and more than 40 other topics from the American Community Survey. The release provides statistics on more than 40 social, economic and housing topics for U.S. communities with populations of 65,000 or more.

For South Dakota, statistics for the state, Sioux Falls Metro, Rapid City Metro, Pennington County, and Minnehaha County are included in the release. The State Data Center has prepared the detailed comparison profiles for these geographies, and summarized the findings at the state level by highlighting differences between 2015 and 2016 that were statistically different.

Total Population was 865,454, with a statistically significant growth of the non-institutionalized population from 841,363 in 2015 to 848,774 in 2016.

Between 2015 and 2016, Native American population (one race) as a share of the total population increased from 8.3 percentage to 8.9 percentage; Hispanic population was estimated as 3.7 percent of the total population, statistically higher than that was reported in previous years.

The state also showed an increase in total number of housing units by 3,520 (380,307 in 2015 VS 383,827 in 2016).

The percentage of vacant housing unit (%) increased from 10.7 to 13.0 between 2015 and 2016.

Median home value (\$) increased from 152,800 in 2015 to 160,700 in 2016.

Between 2015 and 2016, the state showed an increased in the percentage of housing units, either renter or home owner, paying less than 20 percent of total household income.

2017 Groton Area Elementary

Preschool Developmental Screening for 3 year olds

September 20 and 21

Parents of children age 3 in the Groton Area School District are asked to contact Heidi Krueger at the Groton Area Elementary School during school hours at 397-2317 to either confirm their screening time or set up a time. Letters will be send out the week of September 10. If your child is already receiving services or enrolled at Groton Elementary School they will not need to be screened. If your child has already been screened but you have concerns please contact the elementary school. If you are new to the district and have a child under the age of 5, we also ask you to contact the elementary school.

The Developmental Screening will take place at the Groton Area High School Arena. Please park and use the east entrance to the arena.



Median household income (\$) was estimated at 54,467, which was not statistically different from the 2015 estimate.

Between 2015 and 2016, poverty rates declined in general. Poverty rate of people aged 65 years and over, however, increased from 8.3 to 10.9, and it was statistically different.

In 2016, the health insurance coverage rate was 91.3 percent for the non-institutionalized population in the state. Between 2015 and 2016, the health insurance coverage rate increased by 1.5 percentage points, which was statistically different.

Between 2015 and 2016, the percent of children under 18 years that were NOT covered by any health insurance types dropped by 2.2 percent points.

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2017 Custer State Park Buffalo Roundup

On Friday morning, Sept. 29, a few dozen cowboys will put on their boots and saddle their horses. Custer State Park employees will arise before dawn. And thousands from across the state, country and world will gather, all to continue a 52-year tradition.

The Buffalo Roundup is an experience unlike any other. You can feel the ground shake as over 1,000 half-ton creatures stampede across the prairie. Watching the brave riders drive the beasts to their destination is quite incredible. Witnessing the buffalo's power and speed from such a short distance creates a feeling of being back in the Old West.

At one time, there were about 60 million buffalo roaming North America, but that number fell to fewer than 2,000 in the early twentieth century. Although population levels are nowhere near the historical peak, South Dakota buffalo have made a comeback from near extinction, thanks in part to Custer State Park.

Riders will round up a herd of 1,300 buffalo on Sept. 29, after which about four days are needed to work the herd. Volunteers will vaccinate and brand the calves, check the cows for pregnancy and identify 250 buffalo for November's sale.

After the Friday morning Roundup, visitors can stay for lunch and watch the volunteers work the herd. There will be plenty of things to do for those who decide to stay for the weekend. The Arts Festival will continue through Saturday, the exhibits at the newly renovated Peter Norbeck Education Center will be open, and Crazy Horse Memorial visitors will be permitted to hike to the arm of the mountain carving during an organized Volksmarch on Sunday.

The Roundup is something every South Dakotan should see at least once. People from all over the world come for this one-of-a-kind experience because there's nothing like it anywhere else. Consider making this worthwhile journey. I hope to see you there!

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Gov. Dennis Daugaard's Public Commitments; Public Meetings:

Monday, Sept. 18, and Tuesday, Sept. 19, Denver, Colorado – Gov. Dennis Daugaard will participate in the Western Governors' Workforce Workshop in Denver.

Monday, Sept. 18, 9 a.m. CDT, Aberdeen – The South Dakota Board of Education Standards will meet at the Northern State University Student Center in Centennial Rooms A & B West, 1200 S. Jay St., in Aberdeen. A proposed agenda that includes a call-in number and access code is posted at <http://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/Meetings.aspx?BoardID=32>. The meeting will also be livestreamed at <http://sd.net>.

Monday, Sept. 18, 8:30 a.m. MDT, Deadwood – The South Dakota Board of Hearing Aid Dispensers and Audiologists will meet at The Lodge at Deadwood. For public access information and an agenda see <http://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/> or contact Carol Tellinghuisen at 605-642-1600 or proflic@rushmore.com.

Tuesday, Sept. 19, 9 – 10:30 a.m. CDT – The South Dakota Board of Accountancy will hold a meeting via conference call. To participate in the meeting via telephone, please call 605-367-5770 to obtain the call-in information. Questions about the meeting may be directed to Nicole Kasin, Executive Director, at 605-367-5770 or nicole.kasin@state.sd.us. More information and meeting materials are available at <http://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/Meetings.aspx?BoardID=4>.

Tuesday, Sept. 19, 4 p.m. CDT – The Health and Educational Facilities Authority will meet via teleconference. For more information, go to <http://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/Meetings.aspx?BoardID=48>.

Tuesday, Sept. 19, 11 a.m. – 12 p.m. MDT, Spearfish – The Department of Social Services' Board of Social Work Examiners will hold a teleconference board at 625 Main St. and at Family Service Inc., 2210 W. Brown Place in Sioux Falls. For more information and to view the agenda please visit <http://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/Meetings.aspx?BoardID=91>.

Tuesday, Sept. 19, 2 p.m. CDT – The Interstate Adult Offender Supervision state council will meet via teleconference. For a proposed agenda and more information, go to <http://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/Meetings.aspx?BoardID=201>. For the number to participate in the teleconference, contact the Board of Pardons & Paroles office at 605-367-5040.

Tuesday, Sept. 19, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. CDT, Pierre – The Statewide Independent Living Council will hold its quarterly meeting at the Governor's Inn in Pierre. For more information contact Eric Weiss at 605-773-3195.

Thursday, Sept. 21, 8 a.m. – 12 p.m. MDT, Lead, Sanford Underground Research Facility – The Science and Technology Authority will meet in the Education and Outreach Building on Thursday. For more information, go to <http://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/Meetings.aspx?BoardID=89>.

Thursday, Sept. 21, 3 p.m. CDT - The South Dakota Board of Funeral Service will meet via conference call. For public access information and an agenda see <http://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/> or contact Carol Tellinghuisen at 605-642-1600 or proflic@rushmore.com.

Thursday, Sept. 21, to Friday, Sept. 22, MDT – The South Dakota Cosmetology Commission will hold meetings at the following locations. Any interested persons may attend the meeting. To join the meeting via teleconference, please call 605-773-6193 no later than Sept. 18, 2017. If you have any questions, please contact Kate Boyd at 605.773.6193 or kate.boyd@state.sd.us. More information and meeting materials are available at <http://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/Meetings.aspx?BoardID=21>.

- Thursday, Sept. 21, 1 p.m. MDT, Rapid City – at the Department of Labor and Regulation Office, 2330 N. Maple Ave, Suite 1.
- Thursday, Sept. 21, 4 p.m. MDT, Sturgis – at Desaree & Company School of Beauty, 1117 Main St., Suite B.
- Friday, Sept. 22, 9 a.m. MDT, Rapid City – at the Headlines Academy, 333 Omaha St., Suite 6 and 7.
- Friday, Sept. 22, 10:30 a.m. MDT, Rapid City -- Black Hills Beauty College, 623 S. Joseph St.

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Thursday, Sept. 21, 9 a.m. CDT, Sioux Falls – The South Dakota Board of Nursing will meet at the board's offices at 4305 S. Louise Ave., Suite 201. For public access information and an agenda see <http://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/> or contact the board at 605-362-2760.

Thursday, Sept. 21, 10 a.m. CDT, Pierre – DENR's Board of Minerals and Environment will meet in the Floyd L. Matthew Environmental Education and Training Center in the Joe Foss Building, 523 E. Capitol Ave. Agenda items are available through the Boards & Commission Portal at <http://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/Meetings.aspx?Boardid=67>. For more information, contact Brenda Binegar, DENR, at (605) 773-4216.

Friday, Sept. 22, 10 a.m. CDT – The South Dakota Board of Regents Building Committee for the SDSU Stanley J. Marshall Center Addition will meet by teleconference to approve the project's Guaranteed Maximum Price. Contact Tracy Mercer at 605-773-3455 prior to the meeting for information about telephonic access to this meeting; public access to the teleconference is also available at the Board of Regents' office in Pierre, located at 306 E. Capitol Ave., Suite 200. The committee's supporting documents may be found online at <https://www.sdbor.edu/the-board/committees/building-sdsu/Pages/default.aspx>.

Friday, Sept. 22, 9:30a.m. – 2p.m. CDT, Ft. Pierre – The South Dakota Board of Service to the Blind and Visually Impaired will hold its quarterly meeting at the Holiday Inn Express in Ft. Pierre. For more information, please contact Gaye Mattke at 605-773-4644.

You Might Also Be Interested To Know:

Saturday, Sept. 16, to Thursday, Sept. 21 – Bring Your 'A' Game to Work encompasses seven different skills including Appreciation, Attitude, Attendance, Appearance, Ambition, Accountability and Acceptance. These soft skills and a willingness to take direction are generally more desired by employers than the specific skills a particular job requires. This workshop will be offered at the following locations:

- Saturday, Sept. 16, 8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. CDT, Pierre – at The Right Turn, 124 E. Dakota Ave. Contact Kriss at The Right Turn to sign up at 605-773-4755. The last day to sign up for this class is Sept. 13.
- Tuesday, Sept. 19, 6 – 9 p.m. CDT, Pierre – at The Right Turn, 124 E. Dakota Ave. This is part one of a three-part course. Contact Kriss at The Right Turn to sign up at 605-773-4755. The last day to sign up for this class is Sept. 13.
- Wednesday, Sept. 20, 6 – 9 p.m. CDT, Pierre – at The Right Turn, 124 E. Dakota Ave. This is part two of a three-part course. Contact Kriss at The Right Turn to sign up at 605-773-4755. The last day to sign up for this class is Sept. 13.
- Thursday, Sept. 21, 6 – 9 p.m. CDT, Pierre – at The Right Turn, 124 E. Dakota Ave. This is part three of a three-part course. Contact Kriss at The Right Turn to sign up at 605-773-4755. The last day to sign up for this class is Sept. 13.

Monday, Sept. 18, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. CDT, Sioux Falls – Marshalls will hold walk-in interviews at the Sioux Falls Job Service office, 811 E. 10th St. Interested job seekers should complete a paper application available at the Job Service office. For more information, call 605-367-5300.

Tuesday, Sept. 19, to Thursday, Sept. 21 – The South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation will host Job Search Assistance Programs

Help Wanted

We are Hiring Nurses – RN or LPN,
Full or Part Time.

NEW WAGE PACKAGE!!!

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

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



GROTON
CARE & REHABILITATION CENTER

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

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(JSAP). JSAP is a workshop for people recovering from job loss or enhancing their job search skills. Trained instructors speak on modern-day techniques used to successfully find employment. Topics covered include resume and cover letter writing, interviewing etiquette, networking effectively, using social media and much more. JSAP will be offered at the following locations:

- Tuesday, Sept. 19, 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. CDT, Madison – at 223 S. Van Eps Ave. For more information, call 605-256-5300 or visit www.sdjobs.org.
- Thursday, Sept. 21, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. CDT, Mitchell – at 1231 N. Main St. For more information, call 605-995-8060 or visit www.sdjobs.org.
- Tuesday, Sept. 19, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. MDT, Rapid City – at 2330 N. Maple Ave. For more information, call 605-394-2296 or visit www.sdjobs.org.
- Wednesday, Sept. 20, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. CDT, Lake Andes – at 51 S. 3rd Ave. For more information, call 605-487-7607 Ext. 207 or 212 or visit www.sdjobs.org.
- Wednesday, Sept. 20, 9:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. CDT, Sisseton – at 10 E. Hickory St., Suite 3. For more information, call 605-698-3964 or visit www.sdjobs.org.
- Wednesday, Sept. 20, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. MDT, Spearfish – at 1300 North Ave. For more information, call 605-642-6900 or visit www.sdjobs.org.
- Thursday, Sept. 21, 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. CDT, Brookings – 1310 Main Ave. S., Suite 103. Parties interested in attending should register by calling 605-688-4350.

Tuesday, Sept. 19, to Thursday, Sept. 21 – The South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation will hold itinerant office hours. Both job seekers and employers interested in receiving employment and career services at no cost may visit or call during these office hours. More information on programs and services is available at www.sdjobs.org. Itinerant office hours will be held at the following locations:

- Tuesday, Sept. 19, 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. CDT, Wagner – at the Bureau of Indian Affairs, 29775 Main Ave. For more information, call 605-487-7607 Ext. 207 or 212 or visit www.sdjobs.org.
- Tuesday, Sept. 19, 8:30 – 11:30 a.m. MDT, Rapid City – at the Western Dakota Technical Institute, Lewis & Clark Hall, Room L212. For more information on programs and services, call Kevin Dary, Lynette Engle, Melanie Garstenschlager, Samantha McGrath or Jennifer Gross at 605-718-2956 during these office hours. Additional information available at www.sdjobs.org.
- Tuesday, Sept. 19, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. MDT, Sturgis – at 1401 Lazelle St., Meade Room or call 605-641-0965 during these office hours and 605-642-6900 at any other time. Additional information at www.sdjobs.org.
- Wednesday, Sept. 20, 12 – 3 p.m. CDT, Mobridge – at the Mobridge Economic Development office 205 2nd St. E., Suite 1 or call 605-380-8930 during these hours and 605-626-2340 at any other time. Additional information at www.sdjobs.org.
- Thursday, Sept. 21, 1 – 4 p.m. MDT, Rapid City – at the Western Dakota Technical Institute, Lewis & Clark Hall, Room L212. For more information on programs and services, call Kevin Dary, Lynette Engle, Melanie Garstenschlager, Samantha McGrath or Jennifer Gross at 605-718-2956 during these office hours. Additional information available at www.sdjobs.org.

Tuesday, Sept. 19 – Benefits specialists from the Department of Social Services' Division of Economic Assistance will be available at the following itinerant office locations. For more information, contact Tia Kafka, 605-773-3165.

- Kyle, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. MDT
- Dupree, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. MDT
- Canton, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. CDT
- Flandreau, 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. CDT
- Desmet, 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. CDT
- Miller, 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. CDT
- Wagner, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. CDT

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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")**

Webster, 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. CDT

Tuesday, Sept. 19, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. CDT, Sioux Falls – HomeGoods will hold walk-in interviews at the Sioux Falls Job Service office, 811 E. 10th St. Interested job seekers can pick up a paper application from the Job Service office to complete and bring to the interviews. For more information, call 605-367-5300.

Wednesday, Sept. 20, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. CDT, Sioux Falls – Marshalls will hold walk-in interviews at the Sioux Falls Job Service office, 811 E. 10th St. Interested job seekers should complete a paper application, available at the Job Service office. For more information, call 605-367-5300.

Wednesday, Sept. 20, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. CDT, Pierre – Specialists from Wells Fargo Bank will hold an educational workshop at the Pierre Department of Labor and Regulation Office, 116 W. Missouri Ave. The on-site workshops are designed to help families track their spending, find ways to save money, sharpen their money management skills, and protect themselves from identity theft. There is no cost to attend. Individuals interested in attending or wanting more information can call 605-773-3372 or visit www.sdjobs.org.

Wednesday, Sept. 20, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. CDT, Yankton – General Education Development (GED) testing will take place at 3113 Spruce St., Suite 124. For more information, call 605-668-2900 or visit www.GED.com

Wednesday, Sept. 20 – Benefits specialists from the Department of Social Services' Division of Economic Assistance will be available at the following itinerant office locations. For more information, contact Tia Kafka, 605-773-3165.

- Wanblee, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. MDT
- Timber Lake, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. MDT
- Flandreau, 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. CDT
- Salem, 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. CDT

Thursday, Sept. 21, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. CDT, Yankton – General Education Development (GED) testing will take place at 3113 Spruce St., Suite 124. For more information, call 605-668-2900 or visit www.GED.com

Thursday, Sept. 21 – Benefits specialists from the Department of Social Services' Division of Economic Assistance will be available at the following itinerant office locations. For more information, contact Tia Kafka, 605-773-3165.

- Canton, 8 a.m. – 12 p.m. CDT
- Kyle, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. MDT
- Flandreau, 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. CDT
- Lemmon, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. MDT
- Plankinton, 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. CDT



20 Trillion Reasons to Reform Taxes and Mandatory Payment Programs

The federal government's national debt recently surpassed \$20 trillion. While there is plenty of blame to go around, the majority of this debt can be attributed to the past decade, as our debt was \$10.6 trillion at the start of 2009. In other words, in the past eight years, the federal government has accrued as much debt as it accrued throughout the first 230 years of our country's existence. It's no wonder military leaders acknowledge it as being a top threat to our national security. Even more frightening, there is no sign of it slowing down.

High debt threatens economic growth by driving up interest rates and discouraging businesses and individuals from investing back into the economy. And it breeds even more debt as the interest on our debt must be paid to those who hold it – leaving fewer resources for other priorities such as roads, research and education.

Our broken tax system also plays a role by limiting our ability to collect revenues. Our current tax rates create a disincentive for companies to do business here in the United States, which then leads to fewer high-paying jobs for American workers, and encourage businesses to keep their profits overseas. Lowering tax rates would incentivize companies to repatriate that money and invest it back into our economy. Earlier this year, I introduced a proposal in the Senate to lower the tax rate in each bracket. It is but one step we can take to overhaul the tax code that will provide direct, immediate relief to hardworking families, jolt our economy and increase federal revenues.

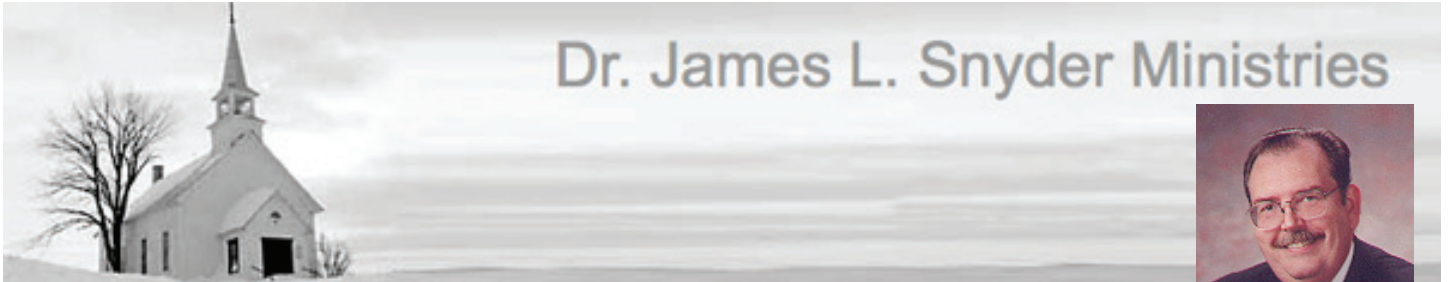
While I do believe tax cuts are an important step to controlling our debt, the biggest driver of our debt is the rapid, unchecked growth of mandatory payments on safety net programs including Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security. If we continue down our current path, in less than ten years 99 percent of all federal revenue will have to be spent on mandatory payments and interest on our sky-high debt. No amount of cuts to defense and other programs such as crop insurance, education, highways and bridges will have a meaningful effect on debt reduction without also controlling the cost of these mandatory payment programs.

Mandatory payments already account for nearly three-fourths of our total federal spending today. This is because Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security have never been properly managed and Congress does not currently appropriately oversee them. They run on auto-pilot. Given that they are our largest federal expenditures every year, it is time for Congress to take an active role in managing their funding levels on a regular basis. This does not necessarily mean making cuts - it simply means giving Congress the authority to review them to make them as efficient as possible and to make sure they are available for individuals who need them, both now and in the future.

Surpassing \$20 trillion in debt should be a wake-up call to Washington, which for decades has failed to own up to their responsibility to balance its checkbook. I continue to work with my colleagues in the Senate to shake up the budget process in Congress, and open up the entire budget to congressional review – including mandatory payments. It is the only way to slow down the fiscal train wreck. Simply delaying action and looking the other way is not an option.

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Dr. James L. Snyder Ministries



Those Annoying Sounds of Silence

It was in the 60s when Simon and Garfunkel recorded their famous song, "The Sounds of Silence."

I must confess that I do enjoy what I know of as "The Sounds of Silence." Nothing is more relaxing than sitting back with a cup of coffee and enjoying the silence as it whistled by. This has become a rather infrequent period for me.

I love the silence and I enjoy the peace and quiet it brings.

The problem is, silence can be taken too far.

Recently, we were the target of a ferocious hurricane who tried to have her way with us. She snorted, huffed, puffed and stomped her way up through the state of Florida. As it turned out, although there was a tremendous amount of damage, it was not as bad as expected. That is something we can thank God for.

For almost a week, we were privileged to have her presence in our state. She did not stay as long as we expected and we were quite happy to see her go. The further north she went the less strength she had. The state of Florida simply exhausted her.

Here in Florida we are used to high winds and that sort of thing. Water, rain and flooding are a common occurrence here. We did have some record high flooding, but in the mainstream, we endured and got through it.

Many people were out of electricity for days and some for weeks at a time.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and her faithful companion did not lose electricity. We did lose, however, our Internet, phone and TV. That covered pretty much everything in our house.

My wife had her car filled with gas while I on the other hand, did not. I did not think it would last long, so I stuck it out because I really had no place to go. Where would I go?

Almost everything was closed. Even the gas stations at one point closed. Restaurants were closed so I could not go out and have lunch. Therefore, even though I did not have gas, I really did not need gas. I really had nowhere to go.

I did have a plan, though. I figured if we had to go somewhere, we could use my wife's car. She always has plenty of gas, so I wasn't worried.

Many people around us lost their electricity and I figured we would lose ours too. We did not and so I was most grateful. At least I could set in the living room with the air conditioner on enjoying myself.

As the days turned into more than I can remember, it started to get rather boring. We had no Internet or phone or TV so I did not know what was going on around us. It was quite exasperating to me.

I like to know what's going on and what's happening and what to expect.

"Just relax," my wife said rather calmly, "everything is all right and we have nothing to fear."

It wasn't anything I wanted to Fear, there were just things I wanted to Know. Fear and Know are two very different things.

Then she said something, which she thought, would calm me down a little bit.

"Remember," she said most seriously, "that song by Simon and Garfunkel?"

I knew where she was going with this, but I had nothing else to do so I thought I would play along.

"No, I don't," I said as seriously as possible. "I can't remember that far back."

She scowled at me and then continued, "The Sounds of Silence."

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"We have electricity, the air conditioning is running, the refrigerator is okay and the stove is working so I can cook. We don't have anything to worry about."

"Just listen," she continued, "to those wonderful sounds of silence."

It was about that time that the rain came down in torrential fury. I looked at her and smiled and she whirled back to the kitchen to cook supper.

Silence is wonderful if you're in control of it. Too much silence can get a little bit aggravating, at least to someone like me. I enjoy the silence when I can open a book and enjoy the literature before me. Then I like to get on the Internet or TV and find out what is happening in the world.

Too much silence can be aggravating and then I got to thinking, what in the world did people do before we had electricity?

This gave me a new appreciation for the things that I have. During those "Sounds of Silence," I began to think about all the blessings I have in my life. Most of the time we do not appreciate what we have until we do not have them any longer.

What is the one thing I could do without? That is a hard question to ask, but I thought about it during the silence. One of the things I want to learn from this experience is to every day appreciate what I have because tomorrow I may not have it any longer.

I thought about what David wrote in the book of Psalms. "This is the day which the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it." (Psalms 118:24).

I only have one chance to rejoice and be glad in today, and I'm going to take it as much as I can.

SD National Guardsman saves fellow Soldier's life

By Sgt. Austin Pearce – SDNG Public Affairs Office

It's a Monday morning in June and two South Dakota Army National Guard Soldiers are at the track at Sioux Park in Rapid City for an Army Physical Fitness Test. Two minutes of push-ups, two minutes of sit-ups, and a two-mile run – something Sgt. David Rodarte has done at least twice a year since joining the National Guard more than 13 years ago.

Sgt. 1st Class Grant Serna, who trains SDARNG recruits, oversees APFTs at least once a month. He volunteered to administer Rodarte's test that morning. This was an old hat for both of them.

Rodarte, 49, had just completed the two-mile run, the final event of three, passing another APFT. He wasn't feeling right and decided to take a cool-down lap.

"He went to jog out a lap and on turn number four, he collapsed on the track," said Serna. "I ran over to him - he was unresponsive and wasn't breathing. I started chest compressions and began CPR."

Rodarte, who doesn't use tobacco, maintains a healthy diet, exercises regularly to include swimming and Jiu Jitsu, suffered a massive heart attack.

Two men working out at the track rushed over to help. The three would continue CPR until two senior officers, Jerred Younie and Mark Weyer, with the Rapid City Police Department arrived.

Younie and Weyer used their defibrillator device, which Serna said without a doubt helped save Rodarte's life.

Once emergency medical technicians arrived, they started Rodarte on the LUCAS CPR machine, which delivers automated chest compressions, and loaded him into the ambulance. While en route to the hospital, Rodarte's vitals returned.

Rodarte's cardiac arrest gave doctors a chance to identify a more serious underlying cardiovascular problem.

"I had a quintuple bypass surgery," said Rodarte. "Doctors found five arteries that were between 60 to 90 percent blocked. I also had an aortic valve replacement - that in and of itself is a traumatic experience for the body."

Despite the complications, Rodarte returned to fulfill his National Guard obligations and complete his two-week annual training in July.

"For me, my decision was to put on the uniform and continue doing what I do," said Rodarte, who trains

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and mentors SDARNG recruits. "It's been part of the healing process for me; putting on the uniform has helped provide me a sense of purpose again."

Since returning to work, Rodarte has had time to reflect on the events in June and develop a greater appreciation for those involved in saving his life.

"Now that time has passed, I realize that what they did was more than just save my life," said Rodarte, a husband and father of two. "They affected my family's lives because they brought back somebody that my wife and children need, and they also thank them."

On July 27, Rodarte and his family had the chance to meet and thank several of those involved in saving his life.

"It's nice to see the result because quite frankly with cardiac events, the chance of actually making a meaningful difference is pretty slim," said Younie. "The fact that we made a difference and that we got to meet with him and his family after is probably one of the most rewarding things that we can do."

Speaking specifically of Serna's actions, Rodarte said, "I'm just the guy who keeled over and had a heart attack. He's the guy who's training from the Guard saved my life. Most people would've given up within a couple of minutes of chest compressions and said, 'Man, this guy is dead,' but he kept going."

The SDARNG awarded Serna with the Army Commendation Medal, Sept. 13, for taking action to save the life of a fellow Soldier.

Serna said he will do his best in any life-threatening situation because he has the training to help and feels it's the right thing to do.

"If you look at our Founding Fathers and the documents that were a part of creating our nation, there's an overlying umbrella that if you have the ability to help, you have therefore the responsibility to help," said Serna. "That's my idea of Americanism."

The Army Commendation Medal is awarded to any member of the Armed Forces of the United States other than general officers who, while serving in any capacity with the U.S. Army after December 6, 1941, distinguished themselves by heroism, meritorious achievement or meritorious service.



U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Grant Serna, Recruiting and Retention Battalion, South Dakota Army National Guard, meets with Sgt. David Rodarte's family at Sioux Park in Rapid City, S.D., July 27, 2017. Rodarte's family thanked Serna for performing CPR on Rodarte, June 12, 2017, after he suffered a massive heart attack upon completing an Army Physical Fitness Test. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Austin

Pearce)

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Granary Rural Cultural Center – Groton, S.D.

LIVING HISTORY FALL FESTIVAL



See The Past Come Alive!



Saturday, September 23, 2017

11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

FREE ADMISSION

COME DRESSED IN FRONTIER COSTUME—GET A PRIZE!

*Fun for All Ages! Reenactment, Demonstrations,
Hands On Activities, Spelling Bee at 2:30 p.m.,
Square Dance Lessons with Art Marmorstein
Pie Social from 1–4 p.m., Music & More!*



... As if you were there!

**PRESIDENT TEDDY
ROOSEVELT**

Played by Arch Ellwein of Flyin' Lion Productions



PERFORMANCES at 1 & 3 p.m.

Program made possible by: South Dakota Humanities Council
(An affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities)



Stop by for Lunch! Concessions by: **THE BRASS KETTLE**



THE GRANARY - Physical Address: 40161 128th St., Rural Groton
The Arts & Culture Campus of Dacotah Prairie Museum
Museum Website: www.dacotahpraiemuseum.com • Granary Website: granaryfinearts.org



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Today in Weather History

September 17, 1911: Pipestone, Minnesota is hit with baseball-sized hail that smashes numerous windows at the Calumet Hotel and high school. The local observer measured hail three inches deep. Click [HERE](#) for an image of the Pipestone school following the hailstorm.

September 17, 1969: In the late afternoon 16 miles east of Pierre in Hughes County, 60 mph wind driven penny size hail damaged crops and buildings in the area. Unofficial amounts of 5 to 6 inches of rain also occurred with the storms.

September 17, 1975: Heavy rain and hail fell in the Pierre area during the night flooding streets and some basements. The high winds downed power lines. The damage estimate was more than 100,000 dollars.

September 17, 1975: Lightning started a grass fire in western Stanley County in the early morning hours of the 17th. With the extremely dry and windy conditions, the fire quickly spread and consumed 25,000 acres of grassland before it was under control. Smoke from the fire was seen from 40 miles away. The fire also destroyed six outbuildings and an old unoccupied farmhouse. Some roads had to be closed due to the fire and smoke. Several electrical poles were also burned. Many residents were notified of possible evacuations. The fire was finally put out in the early morning hours of the 18th.

1829: A typhoon, Japan's most catastrophic storm, inflicts widespread damage over much of the country. On the southern island of Kyushu, the storm surge off the Ariake Sea kills over 10,000. The German physician Philipp Franz von Siebold was present during this storm and succeeded in taking barometric pressure readings around Nagasaki at the risk of drowning.

1923: A devastating fire threatens the University of California at Berkeley on this day. This fire killed two and caused \$10 million in damages. While the exact cause is unknown, the fire began in the dry forest northeast of Berkeley. Strong northeasterly winds blew cinders into the air which lead to the rapid fire growth.

1932 - Concord NH was drenched with 5.97 inches of rain in 24 hours to establish a record for that location (16th- 17th). (The Weather Channel)

1963 - Nearly two and a half inches of rain fell at Yuma AZ in 24 hours. It was the most intense rain for Yuma during the period between 1950 and 1977. (The Weather Channel)

1965 - A storm produced a band of heavy snow across parts of Wyoming. Totals of 23 inches at Rawlins and 20.7 inches at Lander easily surpassed previous snowfall record totals for so early in the season. (15th-17th) (The Weather Channel)


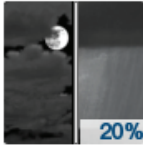





1987 - Thunderstorms produced large hail, damaging winds, and heavy rain in the northeastern U.S. Heavy rain in southwestern Pennsylvania forced evacuation of twenty homes along Four Mile Run Creek, near Darlington. Harrisburg PA established a record for the date with 2.11 inches of rain. A cold front in the central U.S. brought freezing temperatures to parts of Montana and Wyoming. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Early in the morning a tornado hit Kelly Air Force Base in San Antonio, TX, injuring three persons and causing twenty-eight million dollars damage. A second tornado on the northwest side of San Antonio caused six million dollars damage, and a third tornado in Bexar County killed one person and injured another. Thunderstorms associated with Hurricane Gilbert spawned a total of forty-seven tornadoes in a two day period, with forty of those tornadoes in central and south central Texas. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Hurricane Hugo hit the Virgin Islands, producing wind gusts to 97 mph at Saint Croix. Hurricane Hugo passed directly over the island of Saint Croix causing complete devastation and essentially cutting off the island from communications. A storm surge of five to seven feet occurred at Saint Croix. The only rain gauge left operating, at Caneel Bay, indicated 9.40 inches in 24 hours. Hurricane Hugo claimed the lives of three persons at Saint Croix, and caused more than 500 million dollars damage. A ship, Nightcap, in the harbor of Culebra, measured wind gusts as high as 170 mph. A cold front brought high winds to the Great Basin and the Rocky Mountain Region, and thunderstorms along the cold front produced wind gusts to 66 mph at Yellowstone Park WY. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

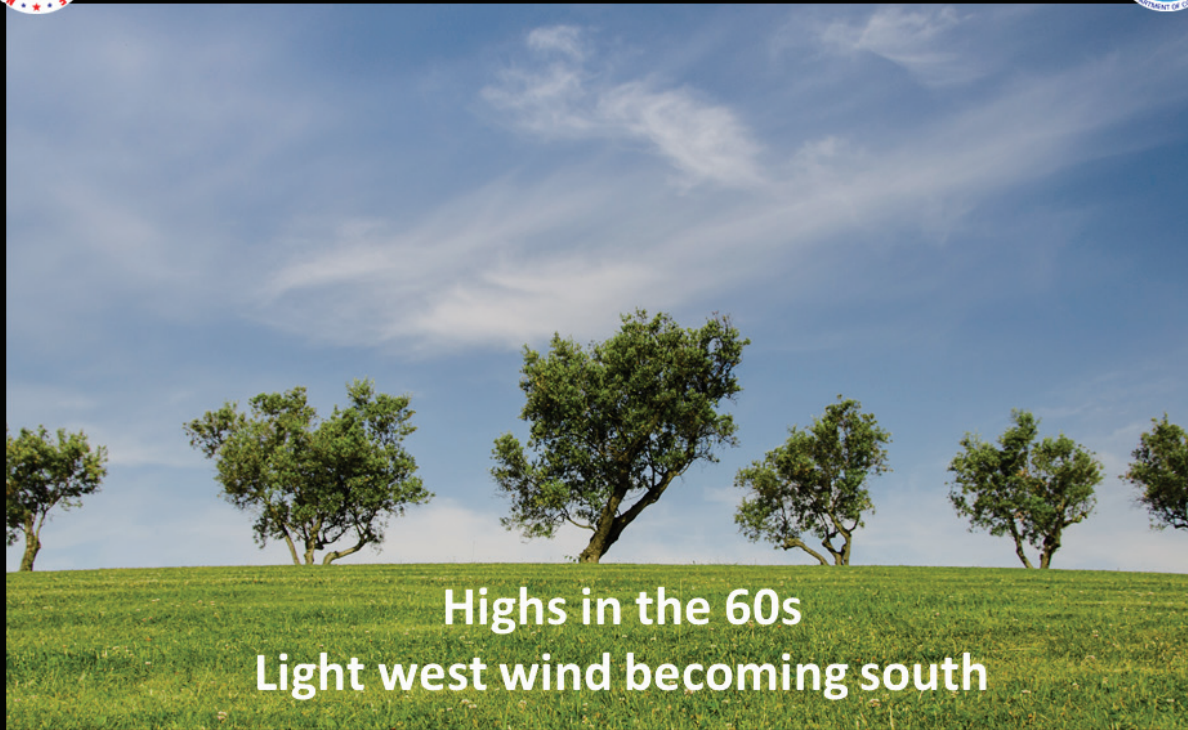
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Today	Tonight	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday	Tuesday Night	Wednesday
						
Sunny	Mostly Cloudy then Slight Chance Showers	Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Breezy. Partly Sunny then Chance T-storms	Showers Likely and Breezy	Mostly Sunny
High: 66 °F	Low: 49 °F	High: 76 °F	Low: 57 °F	High: 80 °F	Low: 50 °F	High: 71 °F





Pleasant Conditions Today!



Highs in the 60s
Light west wind becoming south

National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD

weather.gov/Aberdeen  National Weather Service Aberdeen  @NWSAberdeen Updated: 9/17/2017 5:30 AM Central

Published on: 09/17/2017 at 5:33AM

High pressure over the area this morning will bring mostly sunny skies and fairly light winds. It will be a chilly start with most people waking up to temperatures in the 30s and 40s. Highs today will rebound into the 60s, with winds becoming south in the afternoon.

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 55.6

Low Outside Temp: 47.1

High Gust: 17

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 97° in 1955

Record Low: 28° in 1903

Average High: 72°F

Average Low: 45°F

Average Precip in Sept: 1.27

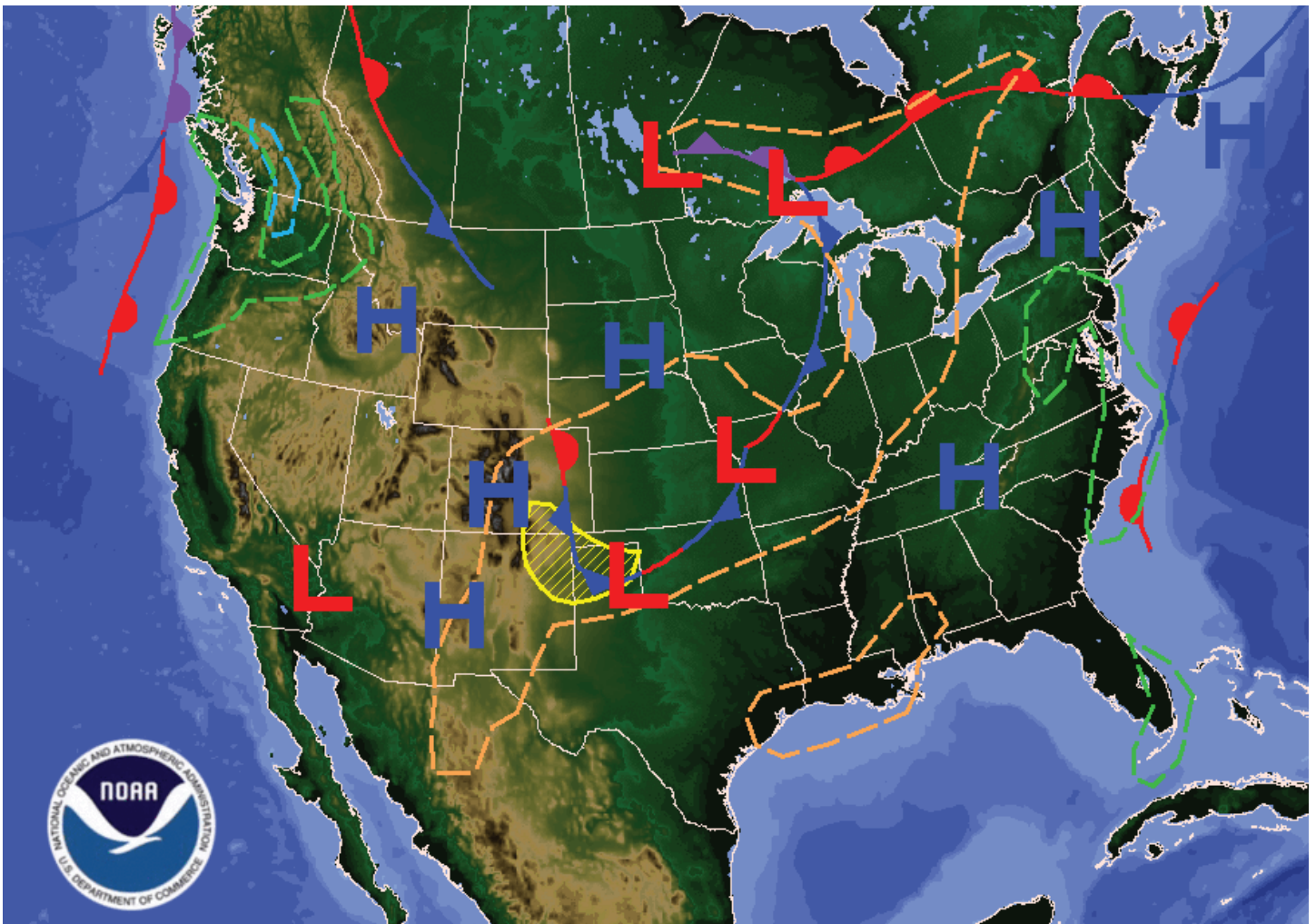
Precip to date in Sept: 0.24

Average Precip to date: 17.56

Precip Year to Date: 9.76

Sunset Tonight: 7:40 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:16 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Sun, Sep 17, 2017, issued 4:33 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Krekeler with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

Rain

Rain and T'Storms

Rain and Snow

Snow

Flash Flooding Possible (hatched)

Severe T'Storms Possible (hatched)

Freezing Rain Possible (hatched)

Heavy Snow Possible (hatched)

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THEREFORE...

Few of us ever stop to think about the fact that the continents on planet Earth are actually afloat. Geologists have discovered that the continents continue to change their shape and form by moving plates. Volcanoes are the earth's "heating and air-conditioning vents" that are arranged around the plates that allow them to "exhale" when the heat and pressure build. We live on a dynamic planet that constantly expands and contracts, moves and reshapes itself.

God, our Creator, did not "begin" something and then turn it "loose" to go its own way. The universe, in all of its many intricacies, reflects purpose and meaning, design and direction. If, as the geologists have proven, the earth is moving and changing and not in a fixed position, where can we find security and stake out a place where we will be safe from all of the "turbulence" of life?

Scripture always has the answer for life's essential questions and concerns. Psalm 46 begins with the statement that "God is our refuge, our strength and our help." That verse is followed by another statement that gives us the assurance that "we need not fear, though the earth gives way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea!" In these two verses we are given God's answer for life's never ending uncertainties. When we face times of insecurity and instability "we do not need to fear" because our God Who created it all is in all and working out His plan for our lives.

The essential fact, however, is that we must have faith and hope. We must have unquestioning faith in our God Who created and now sustains the universe and everything and everyone in it and on it and hope in Him who does all things well.

Prayer: Grant us Your peace and the assurances that come only from You that our fears are unfounded if we trust in You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 46:2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea.

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News from the Associated Press

Saturday's Scores

By The Associated Press

Volleyball

Aberdeen Central def. Brandon Valley, 25-21, 25-8, 25-17

Bennett County def. Lyman, 25-23, 25-18, 25-15

Harrisburg def. Watertown, 25-18, 25-21, 25-23

Mitchell def. Spearfish, 25-13, 19-25, 25-12, 23-25, 15-10

Potter County def. Hitchcock-Tulare, 25-20, 25-21, 25-19

Sturgis Brown def. Red Cloud, 25-21, 25-15, 25-22

Big Dakota Conference Tournament

Pool Play

Pool 1

Miller def. Crow Creek, 25-11, 25-10

Miller def. Todd County, 25-14, 25-5

Pool 2

Mobridge-Pollock def. McLaughlin, 25-11, 25-8

Winner def. Mobridge-Pollock, 25-21, 25-15

Pool 3

Chamberlain def. Cheyenne-Eagle Butte, 25-10, 26-24

Stanley County def. Chamberlain, 25-22, 25-16

Bon Homme Cavalier Clash Tournament

Pool Play

Pool 1

Elk Point-Jefferson def. Gregory, 25-11, 24-26, 25-14

Elk Point-Jefferson def. Bon Homme, 25-12, 25-16

Northwestern def. Elk Point-Jefferson, 25-15, 25-11

Pool 2

Beresford def. Wagner, 25-21, 25-23

Wagner def. Platte-Geddes, 25-13, 25-14

Wagner def. St. Thomas More, 25-9, 25-22

Pool 3

Parker def. Parkston, 25-16, 25-19

Parker def. Avon, 25-16, 25-23

Parker def. Mitchell Christian, 25-8, 25-14

Pool 4

Alcester-Hudson def. Gayville-Volin, 25-20, 25-20

Andes Central/Dakota Christian def. Alcester-Hudson, 27-25, 25-19

Andes Central/Dakota Christian def. Gayville-Volin, 25-14, 25-18

Andes Central/Dakota Christian def. Vermillion, 25-14, 17-25, 25-22

Vermillion def. Alcester-Hudson, 25-13, 15-25, 25-20

Final

Parker def. Northwestern, 25-16, 10-25, 25-18

Quarterfinal

Andes Central/Dakota Christian def. Wagner, 15-25, 25-21, 26-24

Beresford def. Vermillion, 25-19, 25-19

Northwestern def. Parkston, 25-17, 25-16

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Parker def. Elk Point-Jefferson, 25-17, 25-17

Semifinal

Northwestern def. Andes Central/Dakota Christian, 25-7, 25-16

Parker def. Beresford, 25-10, 25-7

Bridgewater-Emery Tournament

First Round

Bridgewater-Emery def. Scotland, 25-18, 25-18

Chester def. Canistota, 25-9, 25-6

Ethan def. Menno, 25-14, 25-10

Hanson def. Tripp-Delmont/Armour, 25-4, 25-8

Consolation Semifinal

Canistota def. Scotland, 25-14, 25-19

Menno def. Tripp-Delmont/Armour, 25-12, 6-25, 25-20

Semifinal

Chester def. Bridgewater-Emery, 25-16, 25-11

Hanson def. Ethan, 25-11, 25-19

Seventh Place

Tripp-Delmont/Armour def. Scotland, 25-20, 24-26, 25-17

Fifth Place

Canistota def. Menno, 25-16, 25-11

Third Place

Ethan def. Bridgewater-Emery, 25-16, 25-22

Championship

Hanson def. Chester, 25-17, 25-11

Britton-Hecla Tournament

Pool Play

Pool 1

Britton-Hecla def. Leola/Frederick, 25-19, 19-25, 25-21

Ipswich def. Britton-Hecla, 25-19, 25-11

Langford def. Ipswich, 28-26, 25-23

Leola/Frederick def. Ipswich, 25-23, 25-18

Pool 2

Herreid/Selby Area def. Tiospa Zina Tribal, 22-25, 25-7, 25-9

Herreid/Selby Area def. Leola/Frederick, 25-22, 25-15

Langford def. Herreid/Selby Area, 25-12, 25-6

Langford def. Tiospa Zina Tribal, 25-18, 25-7

Fifth Place

Britton-Hecla def. Tiospa Zina Tribal, 21-25, 25-21, 25-19

Third Place

Leola/Frederick def. Ipswich, 27-25, 21-25, 25-21

Championship

Herreid/Selby Area def. Langford, 25-20, 25-23

Flandreau Indian Triangular

Lower Brule def. Flandreau Indian, 25-19, 25-12, 24-26, 25-22

Lower Brule def. Marty Indian, 25-23, 22-25, 25-19, 25-14

Hamlin Tournament

Pool Play

Pool 1

Deubrook def. Deuel, 25-12, 25-5

Deubrook def. Sisseton, 25-12, 25-9

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Deubrook def. Hamlin, 25-12, 25-18
Hamlin def. Sisseton, 25-12, 25-18
Hamlin def. Deuel, 25-9, 25-13
Sisseton def. Deuel, 25-10, 25-21
Pool 2
Madison def. James Valley Christian, 25-8, 25-9
Madison def. Florence/Henry, 25-10, 25-19
Madison def. Clark/Willow Lake, 25-13, 25-15
Seventh Place
Clark/Willow Lake def. Deuel, 25-22, 25-15
Third Place
Hamlin def. James Valley Christian, 25-22, 22-25, 25-17
Championship
Madison def. Deubrook, 25-13, 19-25, 25-11
Lake Preston Tournament
First Round
Arlington def. Webster, 25-13, 25-15
Flandreau def. DeSmet, 25-17, 25-23
Lake Preston def. Estelline, 25-18, 28-26
Sioux Valley def. Waubay/Summit, 25-7, 25-11
Consolation Final
Flandreau def. DeSmet, 21-25, 26-24, 25-21
Consolation Quarterfinal
DeSmet def. Webster, 25-11, 25-21
Waubay/Summit def. Estelline, 15-25, 25-16, 25-22
Consolation Semifinal
DeSmet def. Lake Preston, 25-10, 25-20
Flandreau def. Waubay/Summit, 25-15, 25-20
Quarterfinal
Arlington def. Flandreau, 25-17, 25-22
Sioux Valley def. Lake Preston, 25-16, 25-13
Semifinal
Arlington def. Flandreau, 25-8, 25-22
Sioux Valley def. Arlington, 17-25, 25-21, 25-22
Championship
Sioux Valley def. Arlington, 25-14, 25-20
Wall Triangular
Philip def. White River, 25-18, 25-12, 25-22
Philip def. Wall, 25-19, 25-10, 25-13
Wall def. White River, 25-11, 25-13, 25-23

PREP FOOTBALL

Lead-Deadwood 41, Crow Creek 8
Todd County 46, Little Wound 14

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SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Dakota Cash

05-12-17-31-33

(five, twelve, seventeen, thirty-one, thirty-three)

Estimated jackpot: \$20,000

Hot Lotto

03-09-19-25-28, Hot Ball: 10

(three, nine, nineteen, twenty-five, twenty-eight; Hot Ball: ten)

Estimated jackpot: \$10.6 million

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$94 million

Powerball

17-18-24-25-31, Powerball: 24, Power Play: 2

(seventeen, eighteen, twenty-four, twenty-five, thirty-one; Powerball: twenty-four; Power Play: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$132 million

South Dakota State continues points splurge in 51-10 win

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — Taryn Christian passed for two touchdowns and ran for another, and South Dakota State continued to pile up the points with a 51-10 victory over Drake on Saturday night.

The Jackrabbits (3-0) have scored in all 12 quarters this season, averaging over 43 points per game.

Christian was 14-of-22 passing, throwing touchdown passes to Dallas Goedert and Jake Wieneke and running 10 yards for another score during a first half in which the Jackrabbits scored on their first five possessions then tacked on Cade Johnson's 95-yard kickoff return for a 41-3 lead. It was the Jackrabbits' first kick return for a touchdown since Oct. 13, 2012.

Isaac Wallace ran for pair of 1-yard scores and Mikey Daniel had an 11-yarder. Sophomore Chase Vinatieri added a 51-yard field goal. It was a career long for the nephew of Indianapolis Colts kicker Adam Vinatieri.

The lone touchdown for the Bulldogs (1-2) came on Grant Kraemer's 62-yard touchdown throw to Steven Doran.

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

Lead carver of Mount Rushmore honored with plaque

KEYSTONE, S.D. (AP) — The chief carver of Mount Rushmore who was responsible for refining the expressions on the faces of the monument's four presidents was honored Saturday with a plaque that recognizes his work.

Luigi Del Bianco was an Italian immigrant and stone carver whose job included the challenging tasks of sculpting Jefferson's lips and Lincoln's life-like eyes. With the help of Del Bianco's descendants, the National Park Service unveiled a bronze plaque Saturday in his honor. It will be on display at the Lincoln Borglum Visitor Center.

Del Bianco began working on the sculpture in 1933 and returned to it in 1935. When he was designated chief carver, Mount Rushmore designer Gutzon Borglum wrote: "He will have complete charge of the practical ways and means of dealing with the finesse of carving and instructing the other carvers."

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Almost 400 people worked on Mount Rushmore during 14 years of construction. The National Park Service said workers hoisted others up and down the face of the mountain, drilled, hammered, carved and blew up rock to construct the memorial, which draws more than 3 million visitors from around the world each year.

Park Superintendent Cheryl Schreier said in a statement that the park is proud to recognize Del Bianco's contributions and "his story highlights the artistry embodied in this iconic tribute to our nation's history."

Del Bianco talked about carving Lincoln's eyes in a 1966 interview with the Herald Statesman in Yonkers, New York.

"I could only see from this far what I was doing, but the eye of Lincoln had to look just right from many miles distant," he said. "I know every line and ridge, each small bump and all the details of that head (Lincoln's) so well."

He also told the newspaper: "I would do it again, even knowing all the hardships involved. ... It was a great privilege granted me."

Streveler's 3 TDs lead South Dakota past North Dakota

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — Chris Streveler threw for 290 yards, including a touchdown, and ran in two more scores Saturday to lead South Dakota past North Dakota for a 45-7 win.

Kai Henry also ran in two touchdowns, including a 34-yard run up the middle, and Ben Klett had a 7-yard TD run late in the game as South Dakota notched its first 3-0 season start since 2006.

Streveler was 23-for-30 passing and piled up another 62 yards on the ground. His first touchdown came late in the first quarter as he scrambled around the left end for 7-yard score. He later connected with Shamar Jackson with 10 seconds left in the opening half on a 13-yard touchdown pass and then got his third TD on a 14-yard quarterback draw.

The Coyotes also got a 21-yard field goal from Ryan Weese.

North Dakota (1-2) was held scoreless until the fourth quarter when Travis Toivonen hauled in a 10-yard touchdown throw from Keaton Studsrud.

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

Authorities search for Minnehaha County jail escape

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Authorities in Minnehaha County are searching for a man who allegedly escaped from jail.

The sheriff's office says Kai Conrad Hansen escaped from the corrections center Friday night and was last seen running away. He remained at large on Saturday.

Authorities say he had stripped off his jail-issue clothing and was likely wearing a black shirt and shorts or underwear at the time he fled. He's been charged with several burglaries and thefts and authorities don't believe the public is in danger.

Anyone with information is asked to call the sheriff's office.

South Dakota woman to plead guilty in emaciated kids case

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A Kyle woman is expected to plead guilty after two of her children were found emaciated on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.

Court records indicate 34-year-old Darcel Featherman will plead guilty to felony child abuse and neglect Sept. 29.

The Rapid City Journal reports she admitted to leaving the girls with her mother and sister, knowing they wouldn't properly care for them due to alcohol and meth use.

Tribal police found the girls, ages 3 and 2, nearly starved to death in November. They both weighed about 13 pounds and could barely move. Court documents show the older girl was later found to be blind due to "chronic non-accidental" brain trauma.

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The children were placed in custody of the Oglala Sioux Tribe. They've gained weight in foster care.
___ Information from: Rapid City Journal, <http://www.rapidcityjournal.com>

UK police arrest 2nd man in London subway attack case

By GREGORY KATZ, Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — A second man has been arrested in connection with the London subway attack, the city's police said Sunday in what was the clearest indication yet that authorities do not believe the person who planted the bomb acted alone.

The Metropolitan Police force said a 21-year-old man was arrested shortly before midnight on Saturday in the west London borough of Hounslow. The force said the suspect was being held under the Terrorism Act and questioned at a south London police station Sunday, but has been neither charged nor identified.

Police on Sunday also launched an urgent search of a property in the southwestern suburb of Stanwell that authorities said was linked to the latest arrest. They continued searching a home in Sunbury, another southwestern London suburb where neighbors were evacuated on Saturday.

Two men are in custody for possible roles in the bombing attack on a rush-hour subway train Friday morning that injured 30 people in London, including an 18-year-old man who was arrested Saturday in the departure area of the port of Dover,

The two arrests indicate police and security services believe the attack at the Parsons Green station was part of a coordinated plot, not the act of a single person.

"We are still pursuing numerous lines of enquiry and at a great pace," Metropolitan Police counter-terrorism coordinator Neil Basu said.

Britain's terror threat level remains at "critical" — the highest level — meaning that authorities think another attack is imminent. The official threat level is not likely to be lowered until police believe all of the plotters have been taken into custody.

Residents of the Sunbury neighborhood where an armed police search started Saturday were evacuated in a rush and kept away for nearly 10 hours before they were allowed to return to their homes.

The property belongs to an elderly couple who have for years taken in foster children, including refugees from conflict zones in Syria and Iraq.

The pair — Ronald Jones, 88, and his wife, Penelope Jones, 71 — have been honored by Queen Elizabeth II for their work with children in need of a stable home.

A friend, Alison Griffiths, said the Joneses are "great pillars of the community" who have taken in several hundred children in the last 40 years.

Neighbors said two young men had been staying with them recently. Police have not provided details about the extensive search, which began several hours after an 18-year-old suspect in the subway bombing was arrested at Dover's ferry port.

The Islamic State has said Friday's subway attack was carried out by one of its affiliated units. The improvised explosive device placed on the subway train only partially detonated, limiting the number of injuries.

The National Health Service says all but one of the 30 people treated for injuries has been released from the hospital. One person is still being treated at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, which has a special unit for treating burns.

Officials have raised the number of injured from 29 to 30. That includes 19 people who were taken from the explosion site at Parsons Green station to the hospital and 11 who came in for treatment later on their own.

Home Secretary Amber Rudd said the casualties would have been far higher if the bomb had fully detonated. Frustrated by the string of terrorist attacks in recent months, she said officials will have to work harder to make bomb components more difficult to obtain.

Britain has endured four other attacks this year, which have killed a total of 36 people. The other attacks in London — near Parliament, on London Bridge and near a mosque in Finsbury Park in north London — used vehicles and knives to kill and wound.

Protesters smash windows in 2nd violent night near St. Louis

By **JIM SALTER** and **SUMMER BALLENTINE**, Associated Press

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Protests turned violent for a second night near St. Louis following the acquittal of a white former police officer in the fatal shooting of a black man, as a small group of demonstrators refused to disperse, breaking windows at dozens of businesses and throwing objects at police, who moved in with hundreds of officers in riot gear to make arrests.

The confrontation took place late Saturday night in the Delmar Loop area of University City, a suburb about 10 miles (16 kilometers) west of St. Louis near Washington University. The area is known for concert venues, restaurants, shops and bars, and includes the Blueberry Hill club where rock legend Chuck Berry played for many years.

University City had been the scene of a peaceful march earlier in the evening to protest a judge's ruling Friday clearing ex-officer Jason Stockley of first-degree murder in the 2011 shooting of 24-year-old Anthony Lamar Smith. That march ended with organizers calling for people to leave and reconvene Sunday afternoon.

But a few dozen protesters refused to go. Police ordered them to disperse, saying the protest was illegal. Hundreds of police in riot gear eventually moved in with armored vehicles. The demonstrators retreated down a street, breaking windows with trash cans and throwing objects at police.

Several protesters were seen in handcuffs, and city and county police later tweeted that they had arrested at least nine people. Police were seen carrying one handcuffed man away from the scene upside down. At least one demonstrator was treated after he was hit with pepper spray.

After the spasm of violence ended, a reporter for The Associated Press found at least half of the businesses on one side of the street with broken windows along a two block area.

Sam Thomas, who was helping his friend clean up the glass from the shattered windows of his clothing and accessories boutique, OSO, said he understood why people were angry. The U.S. justice system is broken and needs to be fixed, Thomas said.

"I'm not saying this is the right way to fix it," he said of the damage.

"The window isn't murdered. Nobody is going to have a funeral for the window. We can replace it."

On Friday night, nearly three-dozen people were arrested and 11 police officers suffered injuries, including a broken jaw and dislocated shoulder. Five officers were taken to hospitals. Police said 10 businesses were damaged that night, and protesters broke a window and splattered red paint on the home of St. Louis Mayor Lyda Krewson.

Saturday night's violence capped a day of noisy but peaceful demonstrations at suburban shopping malls.

Protesters shouted slogans such as "black lives matter" and "it is our duty to fight for our freedom" as they marched through West County Center mall in the suburb of Des Peres, west of St. Louis. A group also demonstrated at another suburban shopping center, the Chesterfield Mall, and at a regional food festival.

Organizers hoped to spread the impact of the protests beyond predominantly black neighborhoods to those that are mainly white.

Smith's death is just one of several high-profile U.S. cases in recent years in which a white officer killed a black suspect, including the 2014 killing of Michael Brown in nearby Ferguson that sparked months of angry and sometimes violent protests.

Stockley wasn't charged until May of last year, which was three years after he left the force and moved to Houston and more than four years after his December 2011 confrontation with Smith.

Stockley shot Smith after Smith fled from Stockley and his partner, who were trying to arrest him for a suspected drug deal.

Stockley, 36, testified that he felt he was in danger because he saw Smith holding a silver revolver when Smith backed his car toward the officers and sped away.

Prosecutors said Stockley planted a gun in Smith's car after the shooting. The officer's DNA was on the weapon but Smith's wasn't. Dashcam video from Stockley's cruiser recorded him saying he was "going to kill this (expletive)." Less than a minute later, he shot Smith five times.

Stockley's lawyer dismissed the comment as "human emotions" during a dangerous pursuit. St. Louis

Circuit Judge Timothy Wilson, who said prosecutors didn't prove beyond a reasonable doubt that Stockley murdered Smith, said the statement could be ambiguous.

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Uproar in Turkey over removing evolution from biology class

By ZEYNEP BILGINSOY, Associated Press

ISTANBUL (AP) — Students in Turkey are returning to school Monday where they will be taught evolution for the last time in their biology classes. Next fall, evolution and Charles Darwin will be scrapped from their textbooks.

Turkey has announced an overhaul of more than 170 topics in the country's school curriculum, including removing all direct references to evolution from high school biology classes.

The upcoming changes have caused uproar, with critics calling them a reshaping of education along the conservative, Islam-oriented government's line. Opposition parties and unions have organized protests against the changes, demanding that Turkey provide a scientific, secular education for its students. Lawmakers have also opposed the new curriculum in parliament.

Education Minister Ismet Yilmaz said the new "value-based" program had simplified topics in "harmonization with students' development." He said evolutionary biology, which his ministry deemed was too advanced for high school, would still be taught in universities.

Evolution has been taught in 12th-grade biology classes in a chapter called "The Beginning of Life and Evolution." The unit will be replaced by "Living Beings and the Environment" in September 2018 where evolutionary mechanisms like adaptation, mutation and natural and artificial selection will be taught without a mention of evolution or Darwin.

Yilmaz said students would learn the nature of being, including "evolution and other ontological opinions" in 11th-grade philosophy.

Other contentious changes include teaching about jihad or holy war in religion classes as the "love of homeland," and a lessened emphasis on Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, the founder of the Turkish republic who is revered by Turkey's secularists. Ataturk instituted the separation of state and religion, but President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's party has challenged that strict split with a more religious approach.

Students will also learn about the groups that Turkey is fighting: the Kurdistan Workers' Party or PKK, the Islamic State group and the network of U.S.-based cleric Fethullah Gulen.

Turkey's education system is already reeling from the trauma of the failed July 15, 2016 coup attempt — and the new scholastic program highlights that government victory as "a legendary, heroic story."

More than 33,000 of the nation's teachers — about 4 percent — have been purged in a government crackdown after the coup, nearly 5,600 academics have been dismissed and some 880 schools shuttered for alleged links to terror groups.

Many who lost their jobs say the government is using the failed coup as a way to silence its critics.

Turkey blames Gulen for orchestrating the coup, which he denies.

The belief in creationism — that life originated and changed through divine creation — is widespread in Turkey. Many educators are worried because Turkish students are already globally ranked "below average" in science, mathematics and reading compared to their peers across the world, according the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development.

Mehmet Somel, the head of the Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Society of Turkey, says Turkish students will be unable to understand even basic science if their studies make no direct reference to evolution.

"We won't be able to produce good doctors, good scientists, when students graduate from high school with this level of ignorance," Somel said.

Studying evolution allows future doctors to see the causal link between, for example, resistant strains of microbes and excessive antibiotic use, he said.

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Cagri Mert Bakirci, a biologist who founded an online learning project called the "Tree of Evolution," calls the ministry's claim that evolution is too difficult for Turkish students an "insult" to them and their teachers. His volunteer project reaches nearly 8 million people each week over Facebook with videos and articles.

"I can explain evolution in 10 seconds," he said.

The two biologists say evolution was never adequately taught in Turkish public schools in the first place. But Somel says the mention of evolution in past programs at least meant that teachers could introduce the topic.

Orkide Kuleli, a retired pharmaceutical professional, said her 15-year-old daughter will now have to learn about Darwin by herself. She was worried, however, about a more insidious change that she says is taking place in Turkey's education system.

"The goal is to transform society politically and ideologically rather than develop it through science," she said. "A generation that does not question is one that blindly obeys."

Erdogan has repeatedly voiced his desire for a "devout generation." Previous changes to the education system have included an increase in public schools providing religious studies and more elective classes on Islam.

The new curriculum will be rolled out in steps and assessed. This year, students in first, fifth and ninth grades will use the updated program. Other classes, including the changed biology program, will be fully integrated next fall.

The education minister has called the uproar on evolution "partisan," arguing that the new curriculum had been open to input. The head of Turkey's education board, Alpaslan Durmus, insisted it was "utterly ignorant" to say evolution has been scrapped when its mechanisms are still being taught.

Latif Selvi of the pro-government Educators Trade Union, which was involved in drafting the changes, also called the widespread criticism of the plan "ideologically motivated."

"My opinion, based on an evaluation with evolutionary teachers, is that this change is positive," Selvi said.

Somel, the biologist, believes that self-censorship may be at work rather than a top-down decision to toss out evolution entirely.

"There is serious fear in universities and in the ministry of education that one may be pushed out, and evolution has become one of those scary themes," he said.

He said Turkish academics now avoid using the word evolution in project proposals even while studying evolutionary topics. This spring, the Museum of Natural History in the capital of Ankara put new stickers on posters changing the word "evolution" to "development."

Bakirci said hundreds of experts in Turkey would be willing to help the government improve the country's science education.

"It's not too late to take a step back from this mistake," he warned.

Kenya dump dwellers make a living recycling hair extensions

By ADELLE KALAKOUTI and KHALED KAZZIHA, Associated Press

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — In one of Africa's largest dumps, some residents are making a living by collecting and recycling hair from mountains of rubbish.

Nairobi's Dandora Municipal Dumpsite stretches as far as the eye can see. It was declared full in 2001 but has remained active, with 850 to 1,500 tons of waste arriving every day. Kenya last month implemented a ban on plastic bags, a major contributor to the towering piles of trash.

Many environmentalists have campaigned for years to have the dump shut down, calling it an eyesore and a hazard. But for thousands of Kenyans, the dump is their means of existence.

Winnie Wanjira, 31, has spent her whole life at the dump, one of an estimated 6,000 people making their living by scavenging in the rubbish. Some people raise pigs on the organic waste, while others find items to sell.

Wanjira has tapped into the multi-billion-dollar global hair care industry, buying hair extensions collected

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by young boys in the dump and then selling it to beauty salons for a small profit.

You can get lucky and find unused human hair," she says. "Maybe someone bought it and wasn't satisfied with it, maybe the color, then they threw it away." Of the different types of hair extensions, human hair is the most coveted for its softness and versatility. The rising demand in Africa and elsewhere has countries such as India, China and Brazil competing for the biggest share of the market.

Much of the recycled hair is sold to hairdressers in Korogocho, a slum across the river from the dump. Dozens of women have set up makeshift hair salons in the local market.

In a back alley in Korogocho, 29-year-old Mary Wanjiku washes the hair she recently bought. She uses detergent to wash and rinse it, sometimes applying oil and perfume.

"After we get the hair from the dumpsite we usually sort them out and pick the good ones," Wanjiku says. She has been a hairdresser in Korogocho for nearly 10 years. Business can be slow — she averages seven customers a week — as she competes with more than 30 other stalls lined with hundreds of hairpieces.

But she is happy to be working there and says using hair from the dump makes a lot of business sense.

"We prefer to use those because they are cheap and easy to get because of close proximity, instead of those from the central business district that are expensive and also far away," she says.

Wanjiku says she doesn't go out of her way to tell customers where the hair comes from. But she says many know and are happy that the hair has been sufficiently cleaned and is more affordable than hair in town, where a good weave can go for up to 50,000 Kenyan shillings (\$485). A weave in Korogocho can go for around 600 shillings (\$6).

One regular customer, 25-year-old housewife Ruth Njeri, says she has been coming to the salon since 2013.

She knows that the hair comes from the dump but says the benefits outweigh the negatives.

"They have good products that have a variety of colors and texture," she says. "You get to choose what you want, some you can wash. Yeah, they are just good."

Fatah welcomes Hamas pledge to try to end Palestinian split

By MOHAMMED DARAGHMEH, Associated Press

RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP) — President Mahmoud Abbas' Fatah movement on Sunday welcomed a pledge by its Hamas rival to accept key conditions for ending a decade-old Palestinian political and territorial split, but said it wants to see vows implemented before making the next move.

Repeated attempts at reconciliation have failed since the militant Hamas drove forces loyal to Abbas from the Gaza Strip in 2007, a year after defeating Fatah in parliament elections. The takeover led to rival governments, with Hamas controlling Gaza and Abbas in charge of autonomous enclaves in the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

Earlier Sunday, Hamas announced that it has accepted key Abbas demands for ending the split. This includes holding general elections in the West Bank and Gaza, dissolving a contentious Gaza administrative committee and allowing an Abbas-led "unity government," formed in 2014 but until now unable to start operating in Gaza, to finally assume responsibility there.

The announcement came after separate talks by Hamas and Fatah delegations with Egyptian intelligence officials in Cairo in recent days.

Egypt relayed Fatah demands to Hamas that as a first step, it must dissolve the administrative committee, its de facto government in Gaza, and allow the unity government to take charge.

"We accepted that as a sign of our good will toward reconciliation," Hamas official Hussam Badran told The Associated Press.

"The administrative committee is now dissolved and the government can come to Gaza today to assume its responsibilities and duties," he said.

Azzam al-Ahmed, a Fatah participant in the talks, said Hamas and Fatah agreed to meet in Cairo within 10 days, during which time the national unity government should assume its responsibility in Gaza.

Mahmoud Aloul, another Fatah official, told the Voice of Palestine radio that the news from Cairo is

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encouraging, but that “we want to see that happening on the ground before we move to the next step.”

Hamas has been greatly weakened by an Israeli and Egyptian blockade, three wars with Israel and international isolation. Gaza’s economy is in tatters and residents of the territory have electricity for only a few hours a day. In recent months, Abbas has stepped up financial pressure on Hamas, including by scaling back electricity payments to Gaza, to force his rivals to cede ground.

Still, there were no guarantees that this deal would succeed where others failed.

In previous deals, including one brokered by Egypt in 2011, both sides professed willingness to reconcile, but ultimately balked at giving up power in their respective territories.

A key sticking point in the past was Hamas’ refusal to place its security forces in Gaza under the control of an Abbas-led unity government.

It also was not clear how Egypt’s latest effort aligns with its previous tacit support for a separate Gaza power-sharing deal between Hamas and Mohammed Dahlan, an exiled former Abbas aide-turned-rival.

Across US, lawmakers chip away at public’s access to records

By **ANDREW DeMILLO** and **RYAN J. FOLEY**, Associated Press

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) — In February, Arkansas lawmakers marked the 50-year anniversary of the Freedom of Information Act with a resolution calling it “a shining example of open government” that had ensured access to vital public records for generations.

They spent the following weeks debating and, in many cases approving, new exemptions to the law in what critics called an unprecedented attack on the public’s right to know.

When they were finished, universities could keep secret all information related to their police forces, including their size and the names and salaries of officers. Public schools could shield a host of facts related to security, including the identities of teachers carrying concealed weapons and emergency response plans. And state Capitol police could withhold anything they believed could be “detrimental to public safety” if made public.

While hailed by lawmakers as commonsense steps to thwart would-be terrorists or mass shooters, the new laws left grandmother Annie Bryant worried that she and other parents could now be kept in the dark about how schools protect kids.

“I don’t want to be overly aggressive to the point that we block out avenues and end up robbing parents, robbing students of information about their safety,” said Bryant, who lives in Pine Bluff and spoke out against the school security secrecy during a legislative hearing.

Lawmakers across the country introduced and debated dozens of bills during this year’s legislative sessions that would close or limit public access to a wide range of government records and meetings, according to a review by The Associated Press and numerous state press associations.

Most of those proposals did not become law, but freedom-of-information advocates in some states said they were struck by the number of bills they believed would harm the public interest, and they are bracing for more fights next year.

Nebraska lawmakers debated whether to keep secret the identity of the suppliers of lethal-injection drugs used in executions. The California Legislature rushed through a measure that shielded from the public the emergency action plans required for potentially unsafe dams — an idea that arose after nearly 200,000 people were forced to evacuate following a spillway failure at the state’s second-largest reservoir. Texas again considered a plan that would effectively shut down its public records law to any requesters who live outside the nation’s second most populous state.

PUSHING BACK AGAINST OPENNESS

In some cases, the bills hit resistance only after reporters caught on and began writing about them.

In Iowa, the House passed a bill to shield the audio of many 911 calls by declaring them confidential “medical records” after the AP used the open-records law to expose a series of gun-related accidents involving minors in one rural county. The plan died in the Senate after it was detailed in news reports, and

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media and civil rights groups raised objections.

Days later, the potential impact of the bill became clear when a beloved state celebrity, farmer Chris Soules of "The Bachelor" fame, was charged with leaving the scene of a deadly accident. A 911 call that would have remained confidential under the bill painted a far more sympathetic picture of Soules' actions, showing he immediately reported the crash and sought aid for the 66-year-old victim.

Iowa lawmakers succeeded in passing another anti-transparency bill, approving unprecedented secrecy for the state's \$1 billion gambling industry by closing access to the detailed annual financial statements of the state's 19 licensed casinos. Those records had been public for decades. The change came in response to lobbying from casinos, which had objected to a request from an out-of-state competitor for the records by claiming they contained proprietary information.

Florida has some of the nation's strongest open-records and open-meetings laws, but that did not stop lawmakers from trying to tinker with them. This year, they passed 19 new exemptions to the Sunshine Law, the second most in at least two decades. The details of how public universities investigate cyberattacks and prepare for emergencies are now confidential. The identities of people who witness murders, use medical marijuana or get injured or killed at workplaces must also be withheld.

"I think the sheer number of new exemptions that were created was a bit alarming. It was almost a record. That's never good," said Barbara Petersen, president of the First Amendment Foundation in Tallahassee, who has tracked transparency legislation in Florida since the 1990s.

One of the worst for the public's right to know, Petersen said, is a bill requiring records of criminal charges that result in acquittal or dismissal to be automatically sealed. She asked Gov. Rick Scott to veto the measure, arguing it would harm public safety by depriving employers of relevant information about onetime suspects who avoided convictions for any number of reasons. Scott ended up signing the bill, which supporters say will protect the wrongly accused from employment and reputational repercussions.

Still, many other bills that concerned Petersen were defeated, including measures that would have kept secret the names of applicants for top university jobs and allowed members of government boards to have more private meetings.

PUBLIC SAFETY CONCERNS

Lawmakers supporting the limits say other concerns such as security, privacy and business interests can outweigh the public's right to information in specific cases.

They say they proposed the changes after hearing complaints about information sought by specific requesters and general concerns about the cost and time of fulfilling the requests. Criticism of journalists seeking the records or citizens filing repeat requests sometimes came up in debate.

Kansas lawmakers proposed a bill that would keep the state database of fired police officers secret after Wichita television station KWCH exposed how some cities were hiring officers with checkered pasts, including a chief facing a federal investigation after being fired three times. The bill, which was backed by the state's law enforcement training agency, stalled after the station's news director warned lawmakers it would make government "less open, less transparent" around the critical issues of police misconduct and public trust.

In Arkansas, a request for seemingly innocuous information became the catalyst for the sweeping bill passed earlier this year that exempts all "records or other information" held by universities that, if released, could potentially harm public safety.

A photographer filed a request in 2015 for the names of officers assigned to work a security detail for the upcoming Mississippi State-Arkansas football game. The woman, who was shooting the game for AP, wanted to learn whether she might cross paths with an officer she had accused of rape.

University of Arkansas officials were unaware of the motive behind the request and were focused on preventing a terrorist attack at the stadium. The new law they backed specifically shields information related to the number of security personnel on campuses, any personal information about them, and all of their emergency plans, procedures and studies.

The bill also included a similar exemption for public schools. The sponsor, Republican Sen. Gary Stubble-

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field, said he pushed for that language after a district armed some of its teachers and staff as volunteer security guards, saying he wanted to keep their identities secret for safety reasons.

"I'm not against FOI. I believe strongly in transparency, I really do, but common sense just tells you there are some things that you cannot release especially in the day in which we live," Stubblefield said. "Because there are actually people out there who are just looking for something, an edge where they can get in and do some damage. And I just don't think we ought to give it to them."

GOING TOO FAR?

Supporters of the exemption for the Arkansas Capitol Police said it was needed because the news media had written in 1998 about secret plans to allow former Gov. Mike Huckabee to escape his office by climbing a ladder into an abandoned elevator shaft.

The disclosure caused the state to delay and modify the escape route, which was completed in 2001 and later shown to reporters by the governor's staff. The new law gives the agency wide authority to keep secret any records related to security at the Capitol and governor's mansion.

By the end of the session, some lawmakers believed the proposed changes were going too far.

The Legislature voted to create a new task force to study the exemptions, including whether any should be deleted or added. The House voted 33-32 to block legislation that would allow the government to declare a public records request "unduly burdensome" and give 15 business days to comply instead of the current three. A measure that would have allowed universities to keep secret wide categories of records related to potential legal action failed.

Tom Larimer, executive director of the Arkansas Press Association, said lawmakers did more damage to freedom of information than in any other session since 2004.

"We've always had a certain number of legislators who have had no use for the Freedom of Information Act and have no serious concerns about transparency in government," he said. "But it just seemed like there were more of them this time, and they were more willing to side with those who are perpetually on the side of weakening the FOI."

Foley reported from Iowa City, Iowa.

Follow Andrew DeMillo on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/ademillo> and Ryan J. Foley at <https://twitter.com/rjfoley>.

2nd night of violence in St. Louis after ex-cop acquitted

By **JIM SALTER** and **SUMMER BALLENTINE**, Associated Press

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Protests near St. Louis turned violent for the second night Saturday in reaction to the acquittal of a white former police officer in the fatal shooting of a black man, as a small group of demonstrators refused to disperse, breaking windows at dozens of businesses and throwing objects at police, who moved in with hundreds of officers in riot gear to make arrests.

The confrontation took place in the Delmar Loop area of University City, a suburb about 10 miles (16 kilometers) west of St. Louis near Washington University. The area is known for concert venues, restaurants, shops and bars and includes the Blueberry Hill club where rock legend Chuck Berry played for many years.

University City had been the scene of a tense but calm march earlier in the evening to protest a judge's ruling Friday clearing ex-officer Jason Stockley of first-degree murder in the 2011 shooting of 24-year-old Anthony Lamar Smith. That march ended with organizers calling for people to leave and reconvene Sunday afternoon.

But a few dozen protesters refused to go. Police ordered them to disperse, saying the protest was unlawful. Hundreds of police in riot gear eventually moved in with armored vehicles. The demonstrators retreated down a street, breaking windows with trash cans and throwing objects at police.

Several protesters were seen in handcuffs and city and county police tweeted that they arrested nine

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people. Police in riot gear were seen carrying one man away from the scene upside down in handcuffs. At least one demonstrator was treated after he was hit with pepper spray.

After the spasm of violence ended, a reporter for The Associated Press found at least half of the businesses on one side of the street with broken windows along a two block area.

Sam Thomas, who was helping his friend clean up the glass from the shattered windows of his business, OSO, a clothing and accessories boutique, said he understands why people are angry. The U.S. justice system is broken and needs to be fixed, he said.

"I'm not saying this is the right way to fix it," he said of the damage.

"The window isn't murdered. Nobody is going to have a funeral for the window. We can replace it."

The eruption late Saturday followed a day of non-violent demonstrations at suburban shopping malls.

Demonstrators shouted slogans such as "black lives matter" and "it is our duty to fight for our freedom" as they marched through West County Center mall in the city of Des Peres, west of St. Louis. A group also demonstrated at Chesterfield Mall in the suburbs and at a regional food festival.

Organizers took their grievances to the suburbs Saturday to spread the impact of the protests beyond predominantly black neighborhoods to those that are mainly white.

"I don't think racism is going to change in America until people get uncomfortable," said Kayla Reed of the St. Louis Action Council, a protest organizer.

Smith's death is just one of several high-profile U.S. cases in recent years in which a white officer killed a black suspect, including the 2014 killing of Michael Brown in nearby Ferguson that sparked months of angry and sometimes violent protests.

Federal prosecutors said Saturday they won't open a new civil rights investigation into the killing. Justice Department spokeswoman Lauren Ehrsam said the department decided in September not to prosecute, but didn't announce it then to avoid affecting the judge's decision.

After Stockley was acquitted, violence on Friday night resulted in nearly three-dozen people arrested and 11 police officers injured, including a broken jaw and dislocated shoulder, police said. Five officers were taken to hospitals. Police said that 10 businesses were damaged. Protesters also broke a window and spattered red paint on the home of St. Louis Mayor Lyda Krewson.

Ex-officer Stockley shot Smith after the suspected drug dealer fled from officers trying to arrest him.

Stockley, 36, testified he felt he was in danger because he saw Smith holding a silver revolver when the suspect backed his car toward officers and sped away.

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Stockley's lawyer dismissed the comment as "human emotions" during a dangerous pursuit. St. Louis Circuit Judge Timothy Wilson, who said prosecutors didn't prove beyond a reasonable doubt that Stockley murdered Smith, said the statement could be ambiguous.

Stockley left the force in 2013 and moved to Houston.

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Hamas says it accepts reconciliation demands

By MOHAMMED DARAGHMEH, Associated Press

RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP) — The Hamas militant group on Sunday said it has accepted key conditions demanded by its rival, President Mahmoud Abbas, including nationwide elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, to clear the way for a reconciliation deal after a 10-year rift that has left the Palestinians divided between two governments.

In a statement issued overnight, Hamas said it was "responding to the generous Egyptian efforts, which reflect the Egyptian desire to end the split and achieve reconciliation, and based on our desire to achieve

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national unity.”

Hamas said it had dissolved a contentious administrative committee that runs Gaza, invited Abbas’ government to return to Gaza and was ready to hold new elections.

The Palestinians have been divided between two rival governments since 2007, when Hamas drove Abbas’ forces out of the Gaza Strip, leaving the president in control only of autonomous areas of the West Bank. Repeated attempts at reconciliation have failed.

Hamas, however, has been greatly weakened by an Israeli and Egyptian blockade, three wars with Israel and international isolation. Gaza’s economy is in tatters and residents of the territory have electricity for only a few hours a day.

Egypt recently invited top Hamas officials to Cairo for reconciliation discussions, and last week, Abbas sent a delegation of representatives to Egypt as well.

Despite Sunday’s announcement, any reconciliation deal faces many obstacles. The deal was not clear whether Hamas is ready to place its security forces under Abbas’ control — a key sticking point that has scuttled past reconciliation attempts. There also was no comment from Abbas’ government.

It also was not immediate clear how Egypt’s latest effort aligns with its previous tacit support for a separate Gaza power-sharing deal between Hamas and Mohammed Dahlan, an exiled former Abbas aide-turned-rival.

Pro-Trump rally draws hundreds, not thousands to Washington

By ASHRAF KHALIL, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Organizers had dubbed it the Mother of All Rallies and hoped to bring out thousands to pack the National Mall on Saturday in support of President Donald Trump. In the end, hundreds of flag-waving demonstrators did their best to make some noise in support of the president, who had skipped town for the weekend.

The pro-Trump rally was part of a day of diverse political demonstrations in the nation’s capital that highlighted the stark political divisions in the United States. It was preceded Saturday morning by a small anti-Trump protest near the White House, where about two dozen people demanded tougher action against Russian President Vladimir Putin in retaliation for Moscow’s interference in the 2016 U.S. election.

Wearing T-shirts that read, “We’re not PUTIN up with this anymore,” the demonstrators staged a brief rally before marching to the nearby home of the Russian ambassador.

While the pro-Trump demonstrators clearly outnumbered the anti-Trump contingent, both sides were dwarfed by the juggalos, as supporters of the rap group Insane Clown Posse are known. In front of the Lincoln Memorial, about 1,500 juggalos staged an all-day rally and concert to protest what they say is class-based discrimination by law enforcement.

A 2011 report by the Justice Department’s Gang Task Force labeled the juggalos, who favor extensive tattoos and outlandish face paint, a “loosely organized hybrid gang.” It’s the same classification used for overtly violent gangs such as the Bloods and the Crips.

The rap duo has developed an intensely devoted fan base over the course of a 25-year career, and its fans claim to be a nonviolent community. Protesters chanted “family!” as well as several obscene slogans aimed at the FBI.

One demonstrator, Matt Fratelli of Queens, New York, held up a sign that said “Judge me not by the color of my face paint.”

Fratelli, 27, said he worked for a government agency but didn’t want his superiors to know he was a juggalo for fear of discrimination.

“We’re a family, a large one. I’m here to march for my people,” Fratelli said.

The band, along with the ACLU, sued the FBI in 2014 seeking to change the classification but with little success so far.

Organizers of the pro-Trump demonstration had urged people to attend by saying: “If you stand for patriotism and freedom, this rally is for you!”

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Although far fewer people turned out than the organizers expected, perhaps not surprising in Washington, an overwhelmingly Democratic town, the demonstrators were determined to show their support for the president.

"We are here to tell the world, the media and the Congress, not just the Democrats but the Republicans as well, that President Trump has our full support and that it's time to drain this swamp," one of the speakers said from the stage as the crowd applauded.

Trump was not in town to appreciate his supporters. He was spending the weekend at his golf club in New Jersey before attending the U.N. General Assembly next week.

At one point during the rally, a group of Black Lives Matter activists appeared near the stage. But the momentary tension was defused when one of the Trump rally organizers invited them onstage and offered one of them a microphone. "It's your right to say whatever you believe, and it's their (the crowd's) right to let you know what they think about what you're saying," the rally organizer said. "The important thing is that everybody has a right to speak their mind."

Follow Ashraf Khalil on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/ashrafkhalil>

US coastal growth continues despite lessons of past storms

By JEFF DONN, AP National Writer

Rising sea levels and fierce storms have failed to stop relentless population growth along U.S. coasts in recent years, a new Associated Press analysis shows. The latest punishing hurricanes scored bull's-eyes on two of the country's fastest growing regions: coastal Texas around Houston and resort areas of southwest Florida.

Nothing seems to curb America's appetite for life near the sea, especially in the warmer climates of the South. Coastal development destroys natural barriers such as islands and wetlands, promotes erosion and flooding, and positions more buildings and people in the path of future destruction, according to researchers and policy advisers who study hurricanes.

"History gives us a lesson, but we don't always learn from it," said Graham Tobin, a disaster researcher at the University of South Florida in Tampa. That city took a glancing hit from Hurricane Irma — one of the most intense U.S. hurricanes in years — but suffered less flooding and damage than some other parts of the state.

In 2005, coastal communities took heed of more than 1,800 deaths and \$108 billion in damages from Hurricane Katrina, one of the worst disasters in U.S. history. Images of New Orleans under water elicited solemn resolutions that such a thing should never happen again — until Superstorm Sandy inundated lower Manhattan in 2012. Last year, Hurricane Matthew spread more deaths, flooding and blackouts across Florida, Georgia and the Carolinas. From 2010-2016, major hurricanes and tropical storms are blamed for more than 280 deaths and \$100 billion in damages, according to data from the federal National Centers for Environmental Information.

Harvey, another historically big hurricane, flooded sections of Houston in recent weeks. Four counties around Houston, where growth has been buoyed by the oil business, took the full force of the storm. The population of those counties expanded by 12 percent from 2010 to 2016, to a total of 5.3 million people, the AP analysis shows.

During the same years, two of Florida's fastest-growing coastline counties — retirement-friendly Lee and Manatee, both south of Tampa — welcomed 16 percent more people. That area took a second direct hit from Irma after it made first landfall in the Florida Keys, where damage was far more devastating.

Overall growth of 10 percent in Texas Gulf counties and 9 percent along Florida's coasts during the same period was surpassed only by South Carolina. Its seaside population, led by the Myrtle Beach area of Horry County, ballooned by more than 13 percent.

Nationally, coastline counties grew an average of 5.6 percent since 2010, while inland counties gained just 4 percent. This recent trend tracks with decades of development along U.S. coasts. Between 1960

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and 2008, the national coastline population rose by 84 percent, compared with 64 percent inland, according to the Census Bureau.

Cindy Gerstner, a retiree from the inland mountains of upstate New York, moved to a new home in January in Dunedin, Florida, west of Tampa. The ranch house sits on a flood plain three blocks from a sound off the Gulf of Mexico. She was told it hadn't flooded in 20 years — and she wasn't worried anyway.

"I never gave it a thought," she said during a visit back to New York as Irma raked Florida. "I always wanted to live down there. I always thought people who lived in California on earthquake faults were foolish."

Her enthusiasm for her new home was undiminished by Irma, which broke her fence and knocked out power but left her house dry.

In Horry County, where 19 percent growth has led all of South Carolina coastline counties, Irma caused only minor coastal flooding. The county's low property taxes are made possible by rapid development and tourism fees, allowing retirees from the North and Midwest to live more cheaply. Ironically, punishing hurricanes farther south in recent years has pushed some Northerners known locally as "half-backers" to return halfway home from Florida and to resettle in coastal South Carolina.

Add the area's moderate weather, appealing golf courses, and long white strands — the county is home to Myrtle Beach — and maybe no one can slow development there. "I don't see how you do it," said Johnny Vaught, vice chairman of the county council. "The only thing you can do is modulate it, so developments are well designed."

Strong building codes with elevation and drainage requirements, careful emergency preparations, and a good network of roads for evacuation help make the area more resilient to big storms, said the council chairman, Mark Lazarus. Such measures give people "a sense of comfort," said Laura Crowther, CEO of the local Coastal Carolina Association of Realtors.

Risk researchers say more is needed. "We're getting better at emergency response," said Tobin at the University of South Florida. "We're not so good at long-term control of urban development in hazardous areas."

The Federal Emergency Management Agency helps recovery efforts with community relief and flood insurance payments. The agency did not immediately respond to a request for comment. It provides community grants for projects aimed at avoiding future losses. Some projects elevate properties, build flood barriers, or strengthen roofs and windows against high winds. Others purchase properties subject to repeated damage and allow owners to move.

But coastline communities face more storm threats in the future.

Global warming from human-generated greenhouse gases is melting polar ice and elevating sea levels at an increasing pace, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. That amplifies storm surges and other flooding. Also, some climate models used by scientists predict stronger, more frequent hurricanes as another effect of global warming in coming decades.

"There will be some real challenges for coastal towns," predicted Jamie Kruse, director of the Center for Natural Hazards Research at East Carolina University in Greenville, North Carolina. "We'll see some of these homes that are part of their tax base becoming unlivable."

Hazard researchers said they see nothing in the near term to reverse the trend toward bigger storm losses. As a stopgap, communities should cease building new high-rises on the oceanfront, said Robert Young, director of the Program for the Study of Developed Shorelines at Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, North Carolina.

He said big changes probably will not happen unless multiple giant storms overwhelm federal and state budgets.

"The reason why this development still continues is that people are making money doing it," he said. "Communities are still increasing their tax base — and that's what politicians like."

Donn reported from Plymouth, Massachusetts.

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National Centers for Environmental Information: <https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/>

Center for Natural Hazards Research: <http://www.ecu.edu/cs-cas/hazards/>

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration: <http://www.noaa.gov/>

Program for the Study of Developed Shorelines: <https://psds.wcu.edu/>

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

Child care choices limited for those working outside 9-to-5

By SALLY HO, Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Heather Peele is just like any other mom rushing to pick up her child at day care after work. Except, it's 2:30 a.m., and her 6-year-old daughter has been sleeping for hours at a 24-hour child care center near the Las Vegas airport.

Parents like Peele, a casino cocktail waitress, who work outside traditional business hours often are lost in the national conversation about access to child care and early education.

"I'm just in survival mode right now," said Peele, who is thankful she found a safe, clean and affordable facility for her daughter while she works, sometimes until 4 a.m. She pays about \$40 a day for 10 hours of care.

In many cases, the children of shift workers are cared for by relatives or friends in unofficial capacities. Those without such a support network have few, if any, options.

The National Survey of Early Care and Education said in a 2015 report that just 2 percent of the child care centers it surveyed offer child care in the evening. Six percent provide overnight care and 3 percent have weekend hours.

"It's a huge issue. We have an increasingly service-based economy with non-standard hours, that's more heavily concentrated in lower income groups," said Taryn Morrissey, a child development expert and professor at American University. "The child care sector hasn't really caught up with the realities of hours parents are working."

Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash., proposed legislation Thursday designed to increase access to affordable child care, including for families that work non-traditional hours. Murray called the bill "a smart investment in our children, our future and our economy," but its future is far from certain in a Republican-controlled Congress.

Child Care Aware of America said that last year at least 65,000 families in 28 states sought child care outside the usual workday. The other states don't keep track, according to Yvette Sanchez Fuentes, deputy chief of public policy and research at the non-profit, which works with state child care referral agencies.

"The systems that we have — day care, Head Start, Pre-K — a lot of that began years and years ago, when we had different needs," Sanchez Fuentes said. "Families are changing and communities are changing."

Even in Las Vegas, an entertainment and gambling destination long notorious for blurring the hours of a day, the availability of 24-hour child care is limited.

Peele, a 42-year-old single mother, was sent scrambling when the child care center at the MGM Grand casino-hotel property stopped offering 24-hour service. Day care centers at casinos off the Las Vegas Strip also have closed or cut back hours in recent years. In Nevada, about two dozen out of 450 licensed child care centers are open around the clock.

"I was shocked," Peele said of her few options. "I know I'm not the only one."

She enrolled her daughter at the McCarran International Child Development Center, adjacent to but unaffiliated with the airport and just minutes away from the Las Vegas Strip.

The for-profit center opened last year, offering care 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, for up to 12 hours a day per child. It requires just a day's notice for babies, and two-hour notice for kids up to 12 years old. About half of the caregivers have some sort of college education, primarily two-year associates degrees.

Peele's daughter is one of 141 children enrolled.

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On a recent weekday evening, five caregivers cared for about two dozen children, ranging in age from infants to school-aged. The kids' art adorned the walls, music played in the background and children ran around playing.

The children were served a dinner of breaded chicken with potatoes. By about 9 p.m., they had brushed their teeth and changed into pajamas for bedtime.

Owner Nicolas Del Balso, 64, who retired to Las Vegas after running day care centers in Canada, said staffing the facility is challenging. Many applicants say they're willing to work odd hours only to insist on a daytime schedule after they're hired.

"The labor market is transient and that affects everything," he said. "Your day care is a reflection of your society."

Del Balso said flexibility is critical for the center and its customers. Most day cares that close at a determined time demand promptness, charging by the minute for parents running late.

Precyla Escobar, 24, who works at a hospital lab, said she's dropped off her 2-year-old son, Zeke, at the McCarran center as early as 4 a.m., and picked him up past 7 p.m.

"I feel like they're my family," Escobar said. "It's really hard to find a place that will take care of your kid."

Peele's daughter, Kiina Amado, said she doesn't mind sleeping on a cot alongside a dozen other kids at night. The first-grader and aspiring dentist-dancer said it's hard sometimes to be woken up in the middle of the night to go home. And then there's that other, occasional, problem:

"I forget my pajamas," Kiina said.

Follow Sally Ho at https://twitter.com/_sallyho

Iraq says may use force if Kurdish referendum turns violent

By **SUSANNAH GEORGE** and **QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA**, Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraq is prepared to intervene militarily if the Kurdish region's planned independence referendum results in violence, Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi told The Associated Press in an exclusive interview Saturday.

If the Iraqi population is "threatened by the use of force outside the law, then we will intervene militarily," he said.

Iraq's Kurdish region plans to hold the referendum on support for independence from Iraq on Sept. 25 in three governorates that make up their autonomous region, and in disputed areas controlled by Kurdish forces but which are claimed by Baghdad.

"If you challenge the constitution and if you challenge the borders of Iraq and the borders of the region, this is a public invitation to the countries in the region to violate Iraqi borders as well, which is a very dangerous escalation," al-Abadi said.

The leaders of Iraq's Kurdish region have said they hope the referendum will push Baghdad to come to the negotiating table and create a path for independence. However, al-Abadi said such negotiations would likely be complicated by the referendum vote.

"It will make it harder and more difficult," he said, but added, "I will never close the door to negotiations. Negotiations are always possible."

Iraq's Kurds have come under increasing pressure to call off the vote from regional powers and the United States, a key ally, as well as Baghdad.

In a statement released late Friday night the White House called for the Kurdish region to abandon the referendum "and enter into serious and sustained dialogue with Baghdad."

"Holding the referendum in disputed areas is particularly provocative and destabilizing," the statement read.

Tensions between Irbil and Baghdad have flared in the lead-up to the Sept. 25 vote.

Masoud Barzani, the president of Iraq's autonomous Kurdish region, has repeatedly threatened violence if Iraqi military or Shiite militias attempt to move into disputed territories that are now under the control

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of Kurdish fighters known as Peshmerga, specifically the oil-rich city of Kirkuk.

"It's chaotic there," Muhammad Mahdi al-Bayati, a senior leader of Iraq's mostly Shiite fighters known as the popular mobilization forces, said earlier this week, describing Kirkuk in the lead up to the vote.

Al-Bayati's forces — sanctioned by Baghdad, but many with close ties to Iran — are deployed around Kirkuk as well as other disputed territories in Iraq's north.

"Everyone is under pressure," he said, explaining that he feared a rogue group of fighters could trigger larger clashes. "Anything could be the spark that burns it all down."

Al-Abadi said he is focused on legal responses to the Kurdish referendum on independence. Earlier this week Iraq's parliament rejected the referendum in a vote boycotted by Kurdish lawmakers.

Iraq's Kurds have long held a dream of statehood. Brutally oppressed under Saddam Hussein, whose military in the 1980s killed at least 50,000 of them, many with chemical weapons, Iraq's Kurds established a regional government in 1992 after the U.S. enforced a no-fly zone across the north following the Gulf War.

After the 2003 U.S.-led invasion ousted Saddam, the region secured constitutional recognition of its autonomy, but remained part of the Iraqi state.

When asked if he would ever accept an independent Kurdistan, Al-Abadi said, "It's not up to me, this is a constitutional" matter.

"If (Iraq's Kurds) want to go along that road, they should work toward amending the constitution," al-Abadi said. "In that case we have to go all the way through parliament and a referendum to the whole Iraqi people.

"For them to call for only the Kurds to vote, I think this is a hostile move toward the whole of the Iraqi population," he said.

Al-Abadi began his term as prime minister after Mosul had fallen to IS, plunging Iraq into the deepest political and security crisis since the sectarian bloodshed that followed the 2003 U.S.-led invasion.

Over the past three years, Iraqi forces have slowly clawed back territory from the extremist group and al-Abadi has used the battlefield victories to garner public support.

In July, Iraqi forces retook Mosul and effectively shattered IS's self-declared territorial caliphate.

However the military successes have come at great cost. In the fight for Mosul alone between 970 and 1,260 civilians were killed and more than twice as many members of Iraq's security forces lost their lives, al-Abadi told the AP Saturday.

Despite territorial losses, IS continues to carry out insurgency-style attacks in Iraq.

Thursday, an attack claimed by IS at a checkpoint and restaurant in southern Iraq left more than 80 killed and 93 wounded.

Years of war have left more than 3 million people displaced. Cities, towns and villages retaken from IS lie in ruins and the forces made powerful by the arms and training that flooded Iraq to fight the extremists are now attempting to leverage that influence.

Al-Abadi said he's confident the security and economic situation in Iraq will continue to improve.

Regarding his ambitious package of political and economic reforms initially introduced in 2015, al-Abadi said, "I think we've achieved some," but added, "It will take time."

Despite the challenges ahead, al-Abadi repeated a call for Iraqis who fled the country over the past three years, to return home. Some 80,000 Iraqis made the treacherous journey to Europe by sea in 2015 alone, according to the United Nations.

"I'm not going to support forced repatriation into Iraq but I think all of Iraqis, they found it very tough to be in Europe as refugees," al-Abadi said, explaining he is in "lengthy negotiations" with his counterparts in Europe to aid the return of refugees.

"These are Iraqi people. We don't want to lose our citizens," he said.

Questions of gun planting, outburst key in officer's verdict

By ROXANA HEGEMAN, Associated Press

WICHITA, Kan. (AP) — A judge's decision to acquit an officer of murder in the death of a black suspect came down to two major questions: Did the officer plant a gun, and did his outburst about killing the man seconds before the shooting signal premeditation?

St. Louis Circuit Judge Timothy Wilson determined Friday that prosecutors failed to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that Jason Stockley's use of deadly force was not justifiable self-defense. Anthony Lamar Smith was killed in the 2011 encounter.

"Ultimately when people argue about this case, they are going to be arguing whether the judge drew the right conclusion from the evidence and probably less about the law," said Ben Trachtenberg, an associate professor of law at the University of Missouri.

Here's a look at how the judge parsed those arguments in his ruling :

DID THE OFFICER PLANT THE GUN?

The officers were investigating what appeared to be a drug transaction in the parking lot of a fast food restaurant. The car sped away and a high-speed chase ensued. Police slammed their SUV into Smith's car. Stockley then got out and fired five shots into Smith's car, killing him. A handgun was found in the car after the shooting.

Prosecutors argued the presence of Stockley's DNA — and absence of Smith's DNA — on the gun proved the gun must have been planted by the officer. They also noted curious details after the shooting, including Stockley digging into a bag in the back seat of the police SUV before returning to Smith's car.

But the defense countered that Stockley heard his partner yell "gun" and saw the driver's hand on a gun as the car sped by him. Stockley testified he did not draw his service weapon and fire until he saw Smith reaching around inside the vehicle after it was stopped. He said Smith changed his demeanor, suggesting he found the gun.

Stockley testified that after the shooting he found the gun tucked down between the seat and the center console, and he rendered the gun safe by unloading cartridges from the cylinder and then left the gun and cartridges on the passenger seat.

In his ruling, Wilson wrote that "a fact issue that is central" to the case is whether Smith had the gun when he was shot. He found the state's contention that the officer planted the gun is not supported by evidence.

As for Stockley digging around in a bag in the police SUV, Stockley testified that he retrieved a "quick clot" pack, a medical item designed to stop serious bleeding, and put it in his shirt pocket. In the police video showing Stockley looking in the bag, a viewer can't see what he's doing or what he might have taken out of the bag.

The judge found the idea that Stockley took a gun from the police SUV to Smith's car not credible. A full-sized revolver was too large for the officer to hide in his pants pockets and he was not wearing a jacket, the judge said. If the gun had been tucked into his belt, it would have been visible on a bystander's video that showed Stockley walking between the police car and Smith's car, he found.

Wilson also noted none of the officers standing next to the vehicle were called to testify that Stockley planted a gun. And he recounted witness testimony that the absence of a person's DNA on a gun does not mean that person did not touch the gun.

"Finally, the Court observes, based on its nearly thirty years on the bench, that an urban heroin dealer not in possession of a firearm would be an anomaly," the judge wrote.

DID THE OFFICER'S OUTBURST INDICATE PREMEDITATION?

Smith drove at speeds of up to 87 miles per hour on wet roads, endangering other drivers and pedestrians. About 45 seconds before the chase ended, police dashcam video captured Stockley saying, "going to kill this (expletive), don't you know it."

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Prosecutors argued that statement proved the officer deliberated about killing Smith even before the pursuit ended.

When questioned about his statement at trial, Stockley said he could not remember saying those words. The ruling noted Stockley testified he had not made a decision to kill Smith and could not recall the context in which the statement was made.

The judge said in his decision that it was apparent from the dashcam audio and video that the pursuit was stressful, both because of its high speed and the confusion caused by multiple radios and communications with the dispatcher.

"People say all kinds of things in the heat of the moment or while in stressful situations, and whether Stockley's statement ... constituted a real threat of action or was a means of releasing tension has to be judged by his subsequent conduct," the judge wrote.

The court does not believe the officer's conduct following the end of the pursuit is consistent with the conduct of a person intentionally killing another person unlawfully, Wilson wrote. He noted testimony by the state's witnesses that Stockley ordered Smith to open the door and show his hands.

It was not until 15 seconds after Stockley arrived the driver's side door that he took his service weapon out of its holster and fired several shots.

This story has been updated to correct the spelling of Ben Trachtenberg's last name, which had been misspelled Trachtenbert.

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'Red flag' calls signaled post-Irma deaths at nursing home

By TERRY SPENCER, JENNIFER KAY and TIM REYNOLDS, Associated Press

HOLLYWOOD, Fla. (AP) — The first 911 call from the Rehabilitation Center at Hollywood Hills didn't sound ominous: A nursing home patient had an abnormal heartbeat.

An hour later, came a second call: a patient had trouble breathing. Then came the third call. A patient had gone into cardiac arrest — and died.

Over the next few hours of Wednesday morning, the dire situation at the Rehabilitation Center for fragile, elderly people would come into clearer view. Three days after Hurricane Irma hit Florida, the center still didn't have air conditioning, and it ultimately became the grimmest tragedy in a state already full of them. Eight people died and 145 patients had to be moved out of the stifling-hot facility, many of them on stretchers or in wheelchairs.

Authorities launched a criminal investigation to figure out what went wrong and who, if anyone, was to blame. Within hours of the tragedy, Gov. Rick Scott and U.S. Sen. Bill Nelson made no effort to hide their anger and frustration that something like this could happen.

On Saturday, Scott ordered the directors of the Agency for Health Care Administration and the Department of Elder Affairs to issue emergency rules to keep residents safe in health care facilities during emergencies.

This requires all assisted living facilities and nursing homes to obtain ample resources, including generators and the appropriate amount of fuel to maintain comfortable temperatures for at least 96-hours following a power outage.

In Hollywood on Wednesday morning, Judy Frum, the chief nursing officer at the air conditioned hospital just across the street from the rehabilitation center, was working in the Irma command center when the emergency room notified her that three patients had been brought in from the nursing home.

"It set off a red flag that something might be going on," said Frum, who grabbed a colleague and hurried across the street.

When they arrived, paramedics were treating a critically ill patient near the entrance. She saw harried staff members trying to get patients into a room where fans were blowing.

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The center had some electricity, but not enough to power the air conditioning.

Frum called her facility, Memorial Regional Hospital, to issue a mass casualty alert. As many as 100 hospital employees rushed over to help.

"The scene on site when I got there was chaotic," said Randy Katz, Memorial's emergency services director.

Word of the crisis soon reached relatives. Vendetta Craig searched frantically for her 87-year-old mother for 25 minutes. She finally found her mother, with doctors from Memorial already applying ice and giving her intravenous fluids.

"She opened her eyes — she looked in my eyes— oh my God, that was the best thing that ever came into my soul," Craig said.

The Rehabilitation Center said the hurricane knocked out a transformer that powered the air conditioning. The center said in a detailed timeline of events released Friday that it repeatedly was told by Florida Power and Light that it would fix the transformer, but the utility did not show up until Wednesday morning, hours after the first patients began having emergencies.

The utility refused to answer any specific questions about the nursing home case.

State and local officials said the nursing home had contacted them, but did not request any help for medical needs or emergencies.

Paulburn Bogle, a member of the housekeeping staff, said employees fought the lack of air conditioning with fans, cold towels, ice and cold drinks for patients.

Rosemary Cooper, a licensed practical nurse at the rehabilitation center, defended the staff's work but declined to discuss specifics.

"The people who were working there worked hard to make a good outcome for our patients," she said in a brief interview before hanging up on a reporter. "We cared for them like family."

Certified nursing assistant Natasha Johnson, who left the facility weeks ago for another job, said she didn't understand why the center didn't transfer patients to the hospital sooner. "I'm as shocked as you. I just don't understand it," she said.

Craig, whose mother was sickened at the nursing home, said the center's administrators should "be prosecuted to the full extent that the law allows and then some."

Owner Jack Michel's attorney didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

State records showed problems with fire and safety standards, as well as more serious issues with generator maintenance and testing, according to February 2016 reports by Florida Agency for Health Care Administration inspectors.

Inspectors also said they didn't see a clean, well-supplied facility, noting peeling paint, chipped and scratched doors and floors and furniture in disrepair. There were overflowing trash bins, rusty air conditioning vents, soiled bathtubs and cracked or missing bathroom floor tiles.

The facility's directors told inspectors that staff needed a refresher course on reporting maintenance and housekeeping issues.

Evangelina Moulder hired an attorney after her 93-year-old mother became severely dehydrated on Wednesday. Moulder's mother was released from the hospital to a new nursing home.

Moulder's attorney, Bill Dean, said Moulder visited her mother on Monday and worried about the heat.

"She said, 'It's very hot in here,' and the staff said, 'Yes, it is,'" Dean said. "She opened her mom's windows, and she said, 'Mom, it's going to be OK.'"

Kay reported from Miami. Associated Press writer Michael Melia in Hartford, Connecticut, and AP researcher Rhonda Shafner contributed to this report.

World leaders face crises in North Korea and Myanmar at UN

By EDITH M. LEDERER, Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Facing an escalating nuclear threat from North Korea and the mass flight of minority Muslims from Myanmar, world leaders gather at the United Nations starting Monday to tackle these and other tough challenges — from the spread of terrorism to a warming planet.

The spotlight will be on U.S. President Donald Trump and France's new leader, Emmanuel Macron, who will both be making their first appearance at the General Assembly. They will be joined by more than 100 heads of state and government, including Zimbabwe's President Robert Mugabe, one of Africa's longest-serving leaders who is said to be bringing a 70-member entourage.

While Trump's speeches and meetings will be closely followed, it will be North Korea, which Secretary-General Antonio Guterres calls "the most dangerous crisis that we face today," that will be most carefully watched. No official event addressing Pyongyang's relentless campaign to develop nuclear weapons capable of hitting the United States is on the U.N. agenda, but it is expected to be the No. 1 issue for most leaders.

Not far behind will be the plight of Myanmar's Rohingya Muslims, victims of what Guterres calls a campaign of ethnic cleansing that has driven nearly 400,000 to flee to Bangladesh in the past three weeks. The Security Council, in its first statement on Myanmar in nine years, condemned the violence and called for immediate steps to end it. British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson is hosting a closed meeting on the crisis Monday, and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation's contact group on the Rohingyas is scheduled to meet Tuesday.

Guterres said leaders would also be focusing on a third major threat — climate change. The number of natural disasters has nearly quadrupled and he pointed to unprecedented weather events in recent weeks from Texas, Florida and the Caribbean to Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Sierra Leone.

While Trump has announced that the United States will pull out of the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement, Macron will be hosting a meeting Tuesday to spur its implementation. And a late addition to the hundreds of official meetings and side events during the ministerial week is a high-level session Monday on the devastation caused by Hurricane Irma.

Several terrorism-related events are on the agenda. Macron is holding a meeting Monday with leaders of five African nations — Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Burkina Faso and Chad — that are putting together a 5,000-strong force to fight the growing threat from extremists in the vast Sahel region.

A side event Wednesday on "Preventing Terrorist Use of the Internet" will be attended by senior representatives of major social media companies. Co-hosts Britain, France and Italy said a global response is needed "to make the online space a hostile environment for terrorists."

Trump has accused Iran of supporting terrorists and is threatening to rip up the 2015 deal to rein in its nuclear program. With a U.S. decision due in October, ministers from the six parties to the agreement are expected to meet next week. The five others strongly support the deal.

Trump has also been critical of the United Nations and has promised to cut the U.S. contribution to its budget, which is the largest. So some diplomats were surprised that the United States would sponsor an event Monday on reforming the 193-member world body.

Trump and Guterres will speak, and the United States has asked all countries to sign a declaration on U.N. reforms. Over 100 have added their names, but Russia's U.N. Ambassador Vassily Nebenzia said Friday that "we are not sure we will sign this declaration."

He said that while "lots of ideas contained in this document are important and look similar to what the secretary-general proposes," U.N. reforms should result from negotiations among all countries instead of from "a declaration of like-minded countries."

The Security Council is holding a high-level meeting Wednesday on U.N. peacekeeping operations, which cost nearly \$8 billion a year. The United States, which pays over 28 percent of the peacekeeping budget, is reviewing all the missions in an effort to cut costs and make them more effective.

While there are many side events on other global hotspots from Central African Republic and South Sudan to Libya, Mali and Somalia, the ministerial meeting will also see sessions on achieving U.N. goals

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for 2030 to end extreme poverty and preserve the planet, women's economic empowerment, migration and conflict prevention — a top priority of the secretary-general.

Germany's U.N. Ambassador Christoph Heusgen said the most important thing about the General Assembly ministerial session, which officially begins Tuesday and ends Sept. 25, is the opportunity for leaders to talk one-on-one or get together in groups.

"I think this is indeed the Super Bowl," he said. "If it didn't exist, one had to create this opportunity so that can people can talk to each other."

General Assembly President Miroslav Lajcak reminded member states that even representatives of countries "with profound disagreements on fundamental issues will sit side-by-side."

He suggested a simple rule: "Treat every speaker on this podium as if he or she is our own head of delegation."

"As long as we can use these meeting rooms to talk and reach compromises in good will, then we all have the collective opportunity to use the U.N. to make the world a better, and more peaceful place," Lajcak said. "If we don't do this, the failure will lie with us — not the U.N."

UK makes 'significant' bomb arrest but attack seen imminent

By GREGORY KATZ, Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — British police made an apparent breakthrough Saturday in the race-against-time subway bombing investigation with what they called a "very significant" arrest, but the country remained on a "critical" alert, meaning that another attack is judged imminent.

Police arrested an 18-year-old man in the port of Dover — the main ferry link to France — and then launched a massive armed search in the southwestern London suburb of Sunbury in which they evacuated residents, established a huge cordon and imposed a no-fly zone above the property being searched.

Police did not say that they had nabbed the man believed to have planted the bomb that partially exploded on a crowded London subway train Friday morning, but Home Secretary Amber Rudd and others said the arrest was of major importance.

The man is being held under the Terrorism Act and has been brought to London for questioning. His identity is a closely guarded secret and police have implored the press not to speculate while the inquiry unfolds. Authorities would not say if they thought the man was trying to flee to France on a Dover ferry.

It's clear that Britain's police and security services are still worried. Hundreds of soldiers patrolled public areas Saturday, freeing up police for the bombing investigation. Rudd said the country's terror threat level — which was raised Friday night to the highest possible level — will stay there until the independent Joint Terrorism Analysis Center is convinced the threat of imminent attack has eased.

The homemade bomb on the rush-hour train only partially detonated — Rudd said it could have been much worse — and there are fears that accomplices may have similar devices. Experts said the bomb could have caused many fatalities if it had functioned properly. Three of the 29 people injured by the blast remained hospitalized Saturday.

Rudd, frustrated by the string of terrorist attacks in recent months, said officials will have to work harder to make bomb components more difficult to obtain.

"(We must) "make sure to take all steps that we can to ensure the sort of materials that this man was able to collect" are harder to find, she said.

The fast-moving inquiry shifted to the pleasant town of Sunbury, where neighbors were ordered to evacuate immediately by police.

Mojgan Jamali, who lives near the house being searched, said police gave her "one minute" to pack.

"I was in my house with my children and there was a knock at the door from the police. They told me to leave. They said 'You have one minute to get out of the house and get away,'" she said. "I just got out. I got my three children and we left the house and the street."

Some neighbors were crying and many said they had no idea when they would be able to return to their homes. Police gave many shelter and food at a nearby sports club.

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Police did not reveal details about the search, but the precautions suggested concern that there might be explosives or violent extremists on the property. The Islamic State group has claimed one of its units planted the bomb.

Security at seaports and airports had been increased after the attack. Officials have hinted there may be more than one person involved, but haven't released details.

Police are combing through closed-circuit TV images and have extensively studied the remains of the partially detonated explosive device, which was contained in a bucket with wires hanging out of it and concealed in a plastic shopping bag.

The train hit by the bomber at Parsons Green station in southwest London had video cameras in each car, and the London Underground network has thousands of cameras at the entrances to stations and along its labyrinth of subterranean and above-ground passageways.

The Parsons Green station was reopened Saturday, restoring some normalcy to London's transport network after a day of severe disruption. There was no sign of panic among Londoners and the weekend life of the multicultural city continued undeterred.

Premier League soccer games and London Fashion Week proceeded as usual, with an increased security presence, although animal rights activists did disrupt those trying to enter the Burberry fashion show Saturday night in central London.

Britain has endured four other attacks this year, which have killed a total of 36 people. The other attacks in London — near Parliament, on London Bridge and near a mosque in Finsbury Park in north London — used vehicles and knives.

In addition, a suicide bomber struck a packed concert hall in Manchester in northern England, killing 22 people. That attack in May also briefly caused the threat level to be set at "critical."

Bangladesh accuses Myanmar of violating its airspace

By JULHAS ALAM, Associated Press

COX'S BAZAR, Bangladesh (AP) — Bangladeshi authorities summoned Myanmar's envoy to protest what they said were violations of their airspace as the number of Rohingya Muslims fleeing violence in western Myanmar in the past three weeks reached more than 400,000.

Myanmar's presidential spokesman on Saturday said there's no evidence of any trespassing and that Dhaka should have reached out to discuss its concerns instead of issuing public statements.

The Bangladesh Ministry of Foreign Affairs said Friday that Myanmar drones and helicopters flew into Bangladeshi airspace on Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday. It said a protest note was handed to Myanmar's envoy Friday evening. Bangladesh warned that the "provocative acts" could lead to consequences.

In Yangon, presidential spokesman Zaw Htay said that while Myanmar's military denied crossing into Bangladesh's airspace, the matter was being investigated. "We don't know exactly if they released that statement for political reasons," he said of Bangladesh's protest.

He added that Myanmar was "transporting rations for displaced people for emergency assistance" to areas close to the border and that Bangladesh "needs to understand that as well."

United Nations agencies say an estimated 409,000 Rohingya Muslims have fled to Bangladesh since Aug. 25, when deadly attacks by a Rohingya insurgent group on police posts prompted Myanmar's military to launch "clearance operations" in Rakhine state. Those fleeing have described indiscriminate attacks by security forces and Buddhist mobs.

The Myanmar government says hundreds have died, mostly Rohingya "terrorists," and that 176 out of 471 Rohingya villages have been abandoned. Myanmar has insisted that Rohingya insurgents and fleeing villagers themselves are destroying their villages. It has offered no proof to back these charges.

The U.N. has described the violence against the Rohingya in Myanmar as ethnic cleansing — a term that describes an organized effort to rid an area of an ethnic group by displacement, deportation or killing.

Ethnic Rohingya have faced persecution and discrimination in majority-Buddhist Myanmar for decades and are denied citizenship, even though many families have lived there for generations. The government

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says there is no such ethnicity as Rohingya and say they are Bengalis who illegally migrated to Myanmar from Bangladesh.

Rights groups like Amnesty International and Human Rights watch have said that they have evidence that Myanmar troops were systematically targeting and setting Rohingya villages on fire over the last three weeks.

U.N. agencies fear continued violence in Myanmar may eventually drive up to 1 million Rohingya into Bangladesh.

As hundreds of thousands of Rohingya have crossed into Bangladesh, relief camps are overflowing and food, medicine and drinking water have been in short supply.

Mohammed Shahriar Alam, Bangladesh's junior foreign minister, said Saturday that India, Turkey, Morocco, Indonesia, Iran and Malaysia have already sent relief and the goods are waiting in an airport in nearby Chittagong. He said more aid was also expected to come via ships soon.

"The United Nations and many other private organizations are working there to support hundreds of thousands who are in dire need of assistance," said Khaled Mahmud, a top official in Cox's Bazar. He acknowledged that aid distribution remained haphazard three weeks into the crisis.

"Our work must be very organized and systematic," he said. "We are working on that."

Defiant N. Korea leader says he will complete nuke program

By **KIM TONG-HYUNG** and **EDITH M. LEDERER**, Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korean leader Kim Jong Un said his country is nearing its goal of "equilibrium" in military force with the United States, as the United Nations Security Council strongly condemned the North's "highly provocative" ballistic missile launch over Japan on Friday.

The North's official Korean Central News Agency carried Kim's comments on Saturday — a day after U.S. and South Korean militaries detected the missile launch from the North Korean capital of Pyongyang.

It traveled 3,700 kilometers (2,300 miles) as it passed over the Japanese island of Hokkaido before landing in the northern Pacific Ocean. It was the country's longest-ever test flight of a ballistic missile.

The North has confirmed the missile as an intermediate range Hwasong-12, the same model launched over Japan on Aug. 29.

Under Kim's watch, North Korea has maintained a torrid pace in weapons tests, including its most powerful nuclear test to date on Sept. 3 and two July flight tests of intercontinental ballistic missiles that could strike deep into the U.S. mainland when perfected.

The increasingly frequent and aggressive tests have added to outside fears that the North is closer than ever to building a military arsenal that could viably target the U.S. and its allies in Asia. The tests, which could potentially make launches over Japan an accepted norm, are also seen as North Korea's attempt to win greater military freedom in the region and raise doubts in Seoul and Tokyo that Washington would risk the annihilation of a U.S. city to protect them.

The KCNA said Kim expressed great satisfaction over the launch, which he said verified the "combat efficiency and reliability" of the missile and the success of efforts to increase its power.

While the English version of the report was less straightforward, the Korean version quoted Kim as declaring the missile as operationally ready. He vowed to complete his nuclear weapons program in the face of strengthening international sanctions, the agency said.

Photos published by North Korea's state media showed the missile being fired from a truck-mounted launcher and a smiling Kim clapping and raising his fist while celebrating from an observation point. It was the first time North Korea showed the missile being launched directly from a vehicle, which experts said indicated confidence about the mobility and reliability of the system. In previous tests, North Korea used trucks to transport and erect the Hwasong-12s, but moved the missiles on separate firing tables before launching them.

The U.N. Security Council accused North Korea of undermining regional peace and security by launching its latest missile over Japan and said its nuclear and missile tests "have caused grave security concerns

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around the world" and threaten all 193 U.N. member states.

Kim also said the country, despite "limitless" international sanctions, has nearly completed the building of its nuclear weapons force and called for "all-state efforts" to reach the goal and obtain a "capacity for nuclear counterattack the U.S. cannot cope with."

"As recognized by the whole world, we have made all these achievements despite the U.N. sanctions that have lasted for decades," the agency quoted Kim as saying.

Kim said the country's final goal "is to establish the equilibrium of real force with the U.S. and make the U.S. rulers dare not talk about military option for the DPRK," referring to North Korea's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

He indicated that more missile tests would be forthcoming, saying that all future drills should be "meaningful and practical ones for increasing the combat power of the nuclear force" to establish an order in the deployment of nuclear warheads for "actual war."

Prior to the launches over Japan, North Korea had threatened to fire a salvo of Hwasong-12s toward Guam, the U.S. Pacific island territory and military hub the North has called an "advanced base of invasion."

The Security Council stressed in a statement after a closed-door emergency meeting that all countries must "fully, comprehensively and immediately" implement all U.N. sanctions.

Japan's U.N. Ambassador Koro Bessho called the missile launch an "outrageous act" that is not only a threat to Japan's security but a threat to the whole world.

Bessho and the British, French and Swedish ambassadors demanded that all sanctions be implemented.

Calling the latest launch a "terrible, egregious, illegal, provocative reckless act," Britain's U.N. Ambassador Matthew Rycroft said North Korea's largest trading partners and closest links — a clear reference to China — must "demonstrate that they are doing everything in their power to implement the sanctions of the Security Council and to encourage the North Korean regime to change course."

France's Foreign Ministry said in a statement that the country is ready to work on tougher U.N. and EU measures to convince Pyongyang that there is no interest in an escalation, and to bring it to the negotiating table.

Friday's launch followed North Korea's sixth nuclear test on Sept. 3 in what it described as a detonation of a thermonuclear weapon built for its developmental ICBMs.

The Hwasong-12 and the Hwasong-14 were initially fired at highly lofted angles to reduce their range and avoid neighboring countries. The two Hwasong-12 launches over Japan indicate North Korea is moving toward using angles close to operational to evaluate whether its warheads can survive the harsh conditions of atmospheric re-entry and detonate properly.

While some experts believe North Korea would need to conduct more tests to confirm Hwasong-12's accuracy and reliability, Kim Jong Un's latest comments indicate the country would soon move toward mass producing the missiles for operational deployment, said Kim Dong-yub, an analyst at Seoul's Institute for Far Eastern Studies. He also said that the North is likely planning similar test launches of its Hwasong-14 ICBM.

South Korean President Moon Jae-in, a liberal who initially pushed for talks with North Korea, said its tests currently make dialogue "impossible."

"If North Korea provokes us or our allies, we have the strength to smash the attempt at an early stage and inflict a level of damage it would be impossible to recover from," said Moon, who ordered his military to conduct a live-fire ballistic missile drill in response to the North Korean launch.

Lederer reported from the United Nations.

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Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Sunday, Sept. 17, the 260th day of 2017. There are 105 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On September 17, 1967, The Doors appeared on "The Ed Sullivan Show" on CBS-TV for the first — and last — time. The group was banned from the program after Jim Morrison ignored a producer's request to change the line, "Girl, we couldn't get much higher" to "Girl, we couldn't get much better" while singing "Light My Fire" during the live broadcast.

On this date:

In 1787, the Constitution of the United States was completed and signed by a majority of delegates attending the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia.

In 1862, more than 3,600 men were killed in the Civil War Battle of Antietam (an-TEE'-tum) in Maryland.

In 1937, the likeness of President Abraham Lincoln's head was dedicated at Mount Rushmore.

In 1939, the Soviet Union invaded Poland during World War II, more than two weeks after Nazi Germany had launched its assault.

In 1947, James V. Forrestal was sworn in as the first U.S. Secretary of Defense.

In 1957, two male attorneys "stood in" as actress Sophia Loren and producer Carlo Ponti were married by proxy in Ciudad Juarez (see-yoo-DAHD' wahr-EHZ'), Mexico. (Legal issues later forced an annulment; the couple wed in Sevres, France, in 1966.)

In 1971, citing health reasons, Supreme Court Justice Hugo Black, 85, retired. (Black, who was succeeded by Lewis F. Powell Jr., died eight days after making his announcement.)

In 1978, after meeting at Camp David, Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin (men-AH'-kem BAY'-gihn) and Egyptian President Anwar Sadat signed a framework for a peace treaty.

In 1987, the city of Philadelphia, birthplace of the U.S. Constitution, threw a big party to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the historic document; in a speech at Independence Hall, President Ronald Reagan acclaimed the framing of the Constitution as a milestone "that would profoundly and forever alter not just these United States but the world."

In 1996, former Vice President Spiro T. Agnew died in Berlin, Maryland, at age 77.

In 1997, a U.N. helicopter slammed into a fog-shrouded mountain in central Bosnia and burst into flames, killing German diplomat Gerd Wagner, five Americans and six others. President Bill Clinton rejected a ban on land mines endorsed by 89 countries, saying the accord would jeopardize "the safety and security of our men in uniform." Comedian Red Skelton died in Rancho Mirage, California, at age 84.

In 2011, a demonstration calling itself Occupy Wall Street began in New York, prompting similar protests around the U.S. and the world.

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush nominated former federal judge Michael Mukasey (myoo-KAY'-zee) to become attorney general. The Iraqi government revoked the license of Blackwater USA security firm a day after a shooting incident that had claimed the lives of civilians. During a forum at the University of Florida, Andrew Meyer, a student with a history of taping his own practical jokes, was Tasered by campus police and arrested after loudly and repeatedly trying to question Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass.

Five years ago: Republican Mitt Romney tried to head off a new distraction for his presidential campaign after a video surfaced showing him telling wealthy donors that 47 percent of all Americans "believe they are victims" entitled to help from the government that permeated their lives; Romney offered no apologies, but conceded his comments were not "elegantly stated" and were spoken "off the cuff."

One year ago: An explosion rocked Manhattan's Chelsea neighborhood, injuring 30 people; an Afghan-born New Jersey resident is facing trial in the bombing. A Somali-American went on a stabbing rampage at Crossroads Center mall in St. Cloud, Minnesota, wounding 10 people before an off-duty officer fatally shot him. Rapper Snoop Dogg received the "I Am Hip Hop" award at the 11th annual BET Hip-Hop Awards near Atlanta. Actress Charmian Carr, best known for playing Liesl von Trapp in the 1965 movie musical

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"The Sound of Music," died in Los Angeles at age 73.

Today's Birthdays: Sen. Charles E. Grassley, R-Iowa, is 84. Retired Supreme Court Justice David H. Souter is 78. Singer LaMonte McLemore (The Fifth Dimension) is 82. Retired U.S. Marine Gen. Anthony Zinni is 74. Basketball Hall of Fame coach Phil Jackson is 72. Singer Fee Waybill is 67. Actress Cassandra Peterson ("Elvira, Mistress of the Dark") is 66. Comedian Rita Rudner is 64. Muppeteer Kevin Clash (former voice of Elmo on "Sesame Street") is 57. Director-actor Paul Feig is 55. Movie director Baz Luhrmann is 55. Singer BeBe Winans is 55. TV personality/businessman Robert Herjavec (TV: "Shark Tank") is 54. Actor Kyle Chandler is 52. Director-producer Bryan Singer is 52. Rapper Doug E. Fresh is 51. Actor Malik Yoba is 50. Rock singer Anastacia is 49. Rock musician Keith Flint (Prodigy) is 48. Actor Matthew Settle is 48. Rapper Vinnie (Naughty By Nature) is 47. Actor-comedian Bobby Lee is 46. Actor Felix Solis is 46. Rhythm-and-blues singer Marcus Sanders (Hi-Five) is 44. Actress-singer Nona Gaye is 43. Singer-actor Constantine Maroulis is 42. NASCAR driver Jimmie Johnson is 42. Pop singer Maile (MY'-lee) Misajon (Eden's Crush) is 41. Country singer-songwriter Stephen Cochran is 38. Rock musician Chuck Comeau (Simple Plan) is 38. Actor Billy Miller is 38. Country singer Desi Wasdin (3 of Hearts) is 34. Rock musician Jon Walker is 32. Actress Danielle Brooks is 28. Actress-singer Denyse Tontz is 23.

Thought for Today: "I personally believe that each of us was put here for a purpose to build, not to destroy. If I can make people smile, then I have served my purpose for God." — Red Skelton (1913-1997).