

Groton Daily Independent

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- Frederick Area School (updated 8-29)**
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- Groton Area School (updated 8-29)**
- Westport Town (updated 8-21-17)**
- Other Notices (updated 8-21)**
- Frederick Town (Updated 8-15)**
- Groton Area School (updated 8-7)**
- Claremont Town Official Notices Book**

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

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

24

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

United Methodist Church: Conde worship, 9 a.m.; coffee fellowship time, 10 a.m., Sunday School, 10 a.m.; Groton worship, 11 a.m.

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

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

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

25

Senior Menu: Meatballs, mashed potatoes and gravy, carrots, fruit cocktail, whole wheat bread.

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

School Lunch: BBQ Chicken sandwiches, fries, cucumber with dip, fruit.

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

School Board Meeting, 7 p.m.

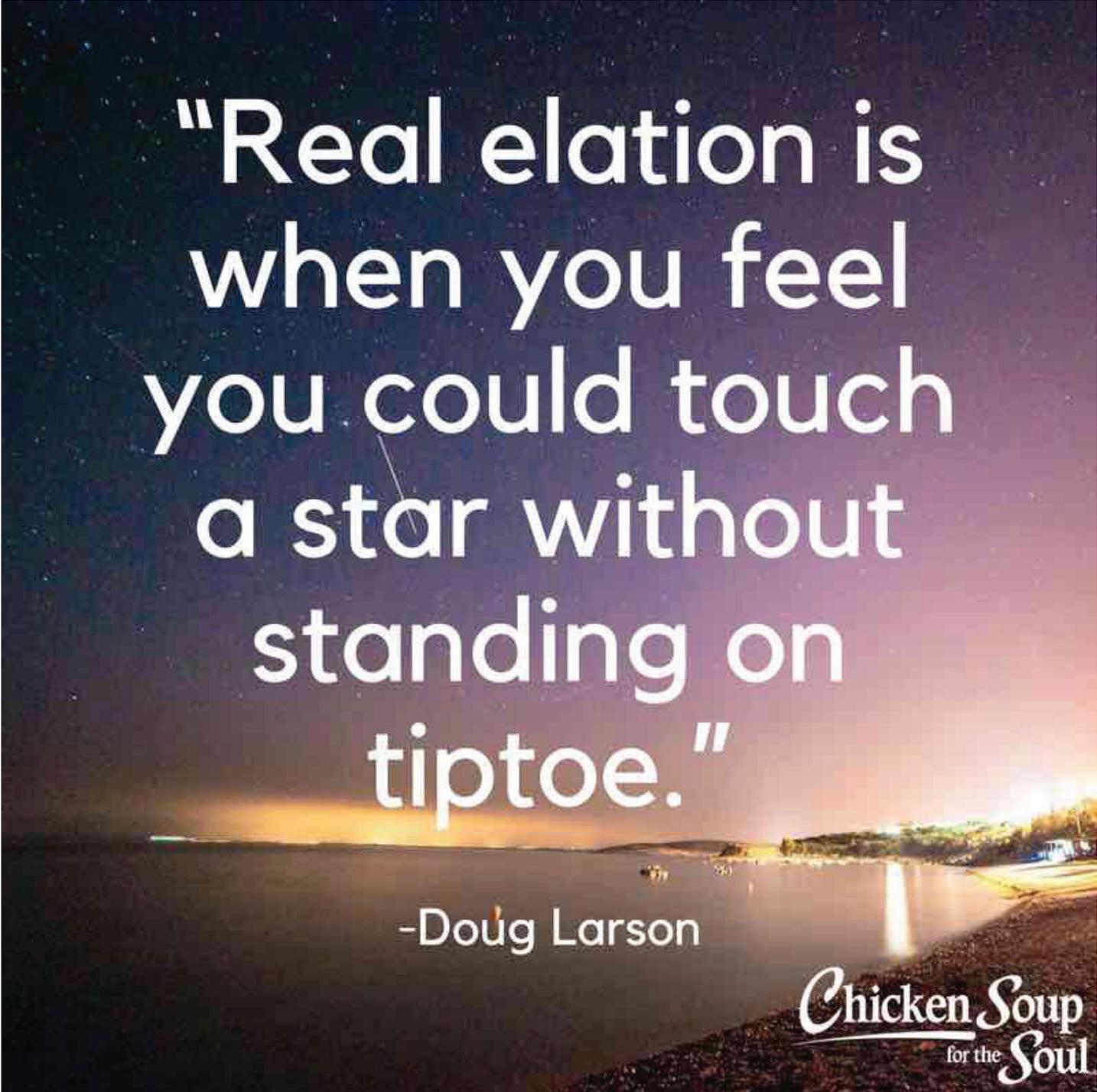
Cross Country: Groton Invite, 4 p.m., at Olive Grove Golf Course

JV Football: at Roncalli, 5 p.m.

Boys Golf: Regions at Dell Rapids.



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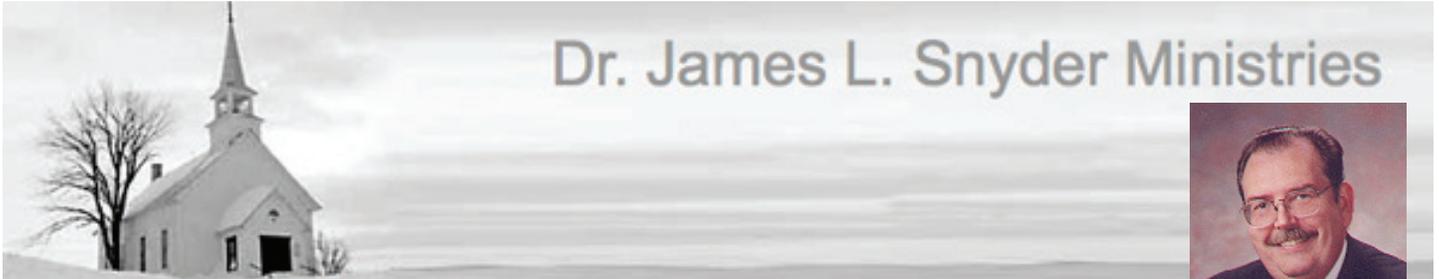
“Real elation is
when you feel
you could touch
a star without
standing on
tiptoe.”

-Doug Larson

Chicken Soup
for the Soul

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Normal Isn't All It's Cracked up to Be

"Well," the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage sighed rather deeply, "now that the hurricane is over I guess we can all get back to normal." When she said "normal," she looked at me and gave me one of "those looks."

I am very much confused when it comes to this idea of normal. What in the world is normal?

Often when we go out somewhere she says, "Please try to act normal tonight."

For me, normal is just the way I act. Furthermore, I am not acting.

I have never given the subject of normal much thought. I just assumed that is what I was, was normal and let it go at that. If I would pose such a question to my wife, I am sure I would catch a rather lengthy definition of what normal is. I can be sure her definition would in no way harmonize with my definition.

I do not know if I am normal according to her, but I am normal according to me. I just will not let this get out.

Perhaps this is one of the great problems in our society today. Nobody knows what normal really is. If I would meet normal on the street downtown, I am not sure I would recognize it. In addition, normal probably would not recognize me.

For example, what is a normal lunch for a normal person?

I believe a normal lunch would be the lunch that I would have on any given day. I am not outstanding in anything. I do not have gifts, personality or anything of that nature. I am just normal when it comes to everything about me.

Could it be that normal is what a person defines it to be?

Just the other day I walked into my favorite restaurant, sat down at my normal table and when the waitress came, I told her, "I'll have my normal lunch."

I have been going to this restaurant for a long time, so the waitress did not have to ask me what I meant. She knew that normal for me was what I usually got for lunch. One time I decided to go in and order something different, but I just did not have the strength to do that. When she came to my table I blurted out, "I'll have the normal."

There is nothing wrong with normal. It is usually something we have done before and so we are comfortable with it. Personally, I do not want to be anything more than normal. What advantage would that be for me to be abnormal? Moreover, what is the definition of abnormal?

I am comfortable being my normal self. I am not competing with anybody. I am not a person with multiple personalities and so I have to compete with myself. I am just a normal person with normal appetites and normal expectations of life.

I never gave it so much thought before, but perhaps the reason my wife has this thing about "normal," is that she does not know if she really married a normal person. I would like to sit her down and explain to her that I am as normal as I am ever going to be. But, you know the outcome of that kind of a thing.

My aspirations in life are to be normal and to be accepted as a normal person. I never want to pretend to be something that I am not.

I took a trip to Ecuador once and discovered that they certainly are not normal in my definition of normal. For example, all of the children spoke Spanish, even the little children that could not read. To them that was

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All auto owners!
Save \$2-\$4 /tank
& grow your local economy
by choosing low carbon
Super Premium E30's
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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")**

normal, but to me that was rather confusing. How normal is that?
Normal means I speak English.

That brings me to the point that being normal may be different for other people. I do not know, but perhaps when those Spanish-speaking children heard me speaking English they laughed and thought I was abnormal. I can hear them speaking now, I just cannot understand what they are saying but I am sure it is something like, "Why doesn't he speak Spanish like the rest of us normal people?"

I guess getting back to normal is doing the things that you once did. I am all for that. I like to do the normal things which makes me happy and being happy is rather normal for me.

I do remember a time that I was determined not to be normal. I wasn't going to dress the way I used to dress and I wasn't going to act the way I used to act and I wasn't going to eat what I used to eat.

I had it all worked out in my head, but it was so confusing that I did not know what I was doing and so I had to get back to the normal me. I am not sure I should say this, but, I really like the normal me. I like me when I am doing what I normally do. To do otherwise would be rather abnormal and who likes an abnormal person?

I often wonder if this is what Jesus had in mind when he said, "Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 18:3).

What is more normal than a little child?

Help Wanted

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

NEW WAGE PACKAGE!!!

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605-397-2365**

Shoulder Pain from Shoveling Grain

The shoulder is an elegant piece of machinery that can move and rotate in more directions than any other joint in the body. However, with such freedom comes less stability and greater risk of injury. The upper arm bone (humerus) and the shoulder blade (scapula) make a ball-and-socket type of joint. The ball is held into the socket by a network of rotator-cuff of muscles, tendons, ligaments, and a rim of cartilage. This whole shoulder-joint-muscle system is attached to the chest and body by the collar bone (clavicle). Despite its marvelous engineering and design, humans will over-stretch and over-use their shoulders and injuries will happen.



By Richard P. Holm M.D.

Mr. AB had fallen off a tractor and dislocated his right shoulder when he was in his 30's. He has been active as a farmer for more than 50 years, but over the last five months he's noticed a gradually worsening pain in his shoulder and difficulty shoveling grain. Eventually, he told his wife he just couldn't take it any longer and she made him an appointment to see me.

This patient came to my office like many farmers come to the doctor: reluctantly. I'm glad that he did. A number of medical problems can masquerade as shoulder pain, and some of them are quite dangerous. It was critical that I first take a careful medical history and perform a detailed exam before I went any further. I discovered that the pain was not related to exertion and relieved by rest, like that from heart trouble. It did not radiate below the elbow and did not have associated neck pain, like one would see with neck-spine nerve trouble. It was not made better by eating, like that from peptic ulcer problems. It was not made worse by a big and fatty meal, which would indicate gall bladder stones. Finally, it was not related to breathing and there was no fever, signs that would indicate pneumonia. Mr. AB's pain was clearly made worse with movement of the shoulder and nothing else.

When his shirt was off, I noted both shoulders were symmetrical. With thumbs down and arms outstretched, it hurt as he raised his right arm. When I bent that arm at the elbow and rotated it downward, he winced with protest. His symptoms were the picture of inflamed, swollen, and tender structures rubbing while trying to pass under a tight arch of bone and ligament.

Mr. AB went to physical therapy, hired someone else to shovel, and rested his shoulder. Over time, his injury healed and the pain went away. We take for granted the elegant engineering and design of the human shoulder.

KRISTI NOEM
REPRESENTATIVE FROM SOUTH DAKOTA



Ellsworth's Place in Our Military's Strategic Framework

When America needs a workhorse, when we need to flex our muscles and show our strength, when we need to respond to terrorists in the Middle East or deter a tyrannical North Korean dictator, America turns to Ellsworth Air Force Base.

Even so, it wasn't that long ago the base, which sits right outside of Box Elder, was on the list for closure. Given the mission-critical roles Ellsworth's bomber fleet has served in recent decades and that the expanded Powder River Training Complex sits in our backyard, an attempt at closure now seems to be in the rearview. So, we're looking forward, and I'm optimistic South Dakota's base is in the right position to receive America's next-generation bomber, the B-21 – a critical asset to combat foreign threats long into the future.

While this plane will modernize the country's airpower beyond what many can imagine, we faced opposition to its development time and again. Just over a year into my first term, in fact, I fought to defeat an amendment that would have delayed B-21 development by a decade. We were successful and plans for the B-21 pressed forward.

By 2015, we were on the cusp of expanding the Powder River Training Complex, which is reserved air space near the base. Nothing can replace the value of air time for our airmen. Proper training and readiness are critical to our airmen's safety and success in the field. With the expansion of air space at Powder River, Ellsworth Air Force Base and the U.S. Air Force would have critical access to one of the largest training ranges in the country.

I met repeatedly with top military, transportation, and aviation officials, urging folks to commit to the expansion. In March 2015, the Federal Aviation Administration finally approved the Air Force's expansion plan, which not only expanded training space but produced \$23 million in fuel savings for the Air Force every year by allowing for critical exercises to be done so close to the base.

During this same time, Ellsworth's 28th Bomber Wing moved under the control of the Air Force Global Strike Command, which provides combat-ready forces for nuclear deterrence and global strike operations. The transition further reinforced Ellsworth's place within the military's strategic framework.

As we continue to upgrade base operations and military equipment, we must also invest in the next generation of service members. One of the most significant honors I have is to nominate young South Dakotans to our four U.S. service academies: the Military Academy in West Point, New York; the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland; the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado; and the Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, New York.

Year after year, I am amazed by the integrity, grit, and determination of the South Dakota students who apply. This year, applications are due to my office by October 31. Anyone interested can learn more by visiting my website at noem.house.gov/ServiceAcademy or by calling our office at (605) 275-2868.

The United States has the world's most powerful and skilled military. Our men and women in uniform are second to none. With the B-21, we are modernizing our fleet. With Powder River, we are investing in the training and new technologies needed to combat modern threats. And through our service academies, we are equipping the next generation with the skills and confidence required to succeed. Improving our readiness in these ways will not only prepare us for the next major crisis; these actions send a message to our enemies that we're ready to respond with strength and precision – no matter the threat.

John Thune
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



Getting Our Troops the Resources They Need to Succeed

For more than 50 years, Congress has passed and the president has signed the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), an important bill that helps fulfill our commitment to America's men and women in uniform. It's almost always a bipartisan exercise that demonstrates to the American people that issues related to the military deserve to rise above the day-to-day political fights that often consume Washington.

While President Obama played politics with this critical legislation, going as far as vetoing it in 2015 in an attempt to gain leverage over other legislative items, I'm glad the bill received nearly 90 votes from Republicans and Democrats in the Senate this month. Our troops aren't bargaining chips. It doesn't work that way. The strong support for this bill, both in Congress and at the White House, is the kind of message we should be sending to the troops, and I was glad to support it.

I often say that if we don't get national security right, everything else is just table talk. Passing the NDAA is an important step in ensuring our troops have what they need in order to defend our country, but our work doesn't end here. Passing the NDAA is like opening a checking account, but Congress still needs to pass subsequent appropriations bills that will essentially put money in the account so we can write a check and support our troops. Both steps are critical.

With this year's NDAA, our troops will get a 2.1 percent pay raise. More money in their paycheck means they're able to provide more for their family and improve their quality of life, and it helps maintain our all-volunteer force. By authorizing an increase in troop size and prioritizing military modernization, we can start rebuilding our military. By strengthening accountability measures, we can reform the Pentagon, which would have a positive trickle-down effect on our troops. And by ending ineffective or redundant programs, we can do a better job of using taxpayer dollars more efficiently. More can be done, and while Congress is constrained by spending caps and other limitations, these recent steps are an important start.

Our commitment to the troops doesn't end when they stop wearing the uniform. Shortly after the Senate approved the defense bill, I reintroduced legislation that would require the federal government to provide disabled veterans with an automatic cost of living adjustment (COLA) in certain circumstances when, under current law, it is not guaranteed. Passing the Veterans' Disability Compensation Automatic COLA Act would provide some much-needed certainty to these veterans and their families.

With ongoing threats to the United States and our allies around the world, including those posed by rogue nations like North Korea, it's more important than ever that we remain vigilant in our effort to defend freedom and democracy here and around the world and provide the armed forces with the tools and resources they need to effectively complete their missions.

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Appreciation for South Dakota Newspapers

The week of Oct. 1 is National Newspaper Week, an opportunity to recognize the important role newspapers play in our country. In South Dakota alone, there are 126 newspapers, some of which have been published for more than a century. Those newspapers employ hardworking reporters and others who work long hours to bring the news to our doorsteps.

In 21st Century America we can sometimes forget that a free press is priceless thing, often not present in other countries. We don't think about the many places around the world where people cannot freely assemble, nor express their beliefs, where there is no freedom of the press and where journalists can be jailed for publishing something about those in government.

We are fortunate America is not one of those places. Here we recognize that a free society requires a free and independent press. We know in order to keep government at all levels in check, we need reporters who ask tough questions, find the facts, present them objectively, and present different sides of a policy issue.

As President John F. Kennedy said in his 1961 speech to the American Newspaper Publishers Association, "Without debate, without criticism, no administration and no country can survive. . . And that is why our press was protected by the First Amendment – the only business in America specifically protected by the Constitution . . ."

Today, technology has changed the way some of us get our news. Some prefer reading online news, versus picking up the morning paper. Some are getting their news from social media, blogs and internet sites.

Whatever the medium of delivery, good news reporting must include fact-checking. Many online sources have failed to do this, but good newspapers have historically been more reliable. We are seeing newspapers adapt to the changing times, by posting stories online. Many offer e-edition subscription options for those who prefer to read their news on a screen. We even have some reporters on social media sharing their stories, posting photos and videos, and live-tweeting events. Newspaper organizations are often much more credible than other kinds of online sources. Newspapers, and particularly the papers in South Dakota, are also closer to the people who read them.

Newspaper Week is an occasion to thank those who put in long hours in the news room. Don't let them hear from you only when you are dissatisfied. When you are happy with something, take a few minutes to send them an email or pick up the phone. Thank your local reporter for covering the event you organized. Tell them you appreciate their work to cover your local sports team. Express gratitude when they sit through the whole city council meeting. After all, they're not just putting ink on a page; they're preserving our way of life.

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Strengthening our Armed Forces

As it has for the past 56 years, the Senate again passed bipartisan legislation to provide for the defense of our nation. The National Defense Authorization Act, or NDAA, is one of the most important pieces of legislation to pass out of Congress each year, as it provides our armed forces with the tools to successfully complete their missions and keep us safe. This year's NDAA includes provisions that will rebuild our military, at a time when it is the smallest it has been since World War II.

This year's NDAA takes important steps to reinvest in our military capabilities and allows us to appropriately address the readiness shortfalls we're facing. Earlier this year, Defense Secretary James Mattis said that he was "shocked" by the decline in U.S. military readiness. The size of our armed forces has shrunk to levels that raise our risk of not being able to deter adversaries or, with deterrence having failed, defeat them in combat. At a time of increased global uncertainty and unrest, it is critical that our men and women in uniform are in the best position possible to defend our great nation.

To better support our troops, this year's NDAA authorizes a 2.1 percent across-the-board pay raise for members of the armed forces. Since our military is made up completely of volunteers, we are hopeful that this will incentivize our service members to remain in our armed forces. It will make sure our troops and their families – who sacrifice so much to keep us safe - are adequately compensated for their service.

I was pleased that this year's NDAA contains 13 provisions I offered, including a bill to help the families of wounded warriors. Unfortunately, in many cases, wounded warriors require around-the-clock care long after their service to our country. It oftentimes falls on family members to act as caregivers. My measure that was included in the NDAA would require that the Department of Veterans Affairs caregiver program be added to the list of statutorily-mandated counseling items for military members transitioning into civilian life.

As a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, I'm proud of Congress's bipartisan tradition of passing the NDAA each year. We put the defense of our nation, our troops and their families before the politics of the day. I'm hopeful that we can do that more often in the weeks and months to come as we try to tackle other important issues, like tax reform and addressing our national debt. It's clear that national defense remains a top priority for Congress, and this year's NDAA shows our troops that they have our full support. I'm honored to serve on the Senate Armed Services Committee and to play a role in making life better for the men and women who wear the uniform of the United States of America.

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Today in Weather History

September 25, 1981: A late September tornado touched down briefly 14 miles west of Pierre during the early evening hours with no damage occurring.

September 25, 1996: An early fall storm over the Black Hills of northeast Wyoming and western South Dakota re-acquainted area residents with their winter driving techniques. Snow totals ranged from 4 to 8 inches. U.S. Highway 385, south of Deadwood South Dakota, was temporarily closed after a semi-truck jack-knifed on Strawberry Hill. Numerous minor accidents were reported in the Black Hills due to slick roads. Heavy wet snow closed the Needles Highway and Iron Mountain Road in the central/southern Black Hills until snowplows could clear the roads.

1848: The Great Gale of 1848 was the most severe hurricane to affect Tampa Bay and is one of two major hurricanes to make landfall in the area. This storm produced the highest storm tide ever experienced in Tampa Bay when the water rose 15 feet in six to eight hours.

1926 - The temperature at Yellowstone Park dipped to nine degrees below zero. It was the coldest reading of record in the U.S. during September. Severe freezes were widespread over the northwestern U.S. causing great crop destruction. In Washington State, Spokane County experienced their earliest snow of record. Harney Branch Experiment Station in Oregon reported a temperature of 2 degrees above zero to establish a state record for the month of September. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1950 - A smoke pall from western Canada forest fires covered much of the eastern U.S. Daylight was reduced to nighttime darkness in parts of the Northeast. The color of the sun varied from pink to purple, blue, or lavender. Yellow to grey-tan was common. (24th-30th) (The Weather Channel)

1972 - Lightning struck a man near Waldport, OR, a young man who it so happens was carrying thirty-five pieces of dynamite. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - The first full day of autumn proved to be a pleasant one for much of the nation, with sunny skies and mild temperatures. Thunderstorms again formed over Florida and the southwestern deserts, and also formed along a cold front in the northeastern U.S. A storm spotter at Earp CA sighted a couple of funnel clouds, one on the California side of the state line, and the other on the Arizona side. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Thunderstorms developing along a stationary front produced large hail and damaging winds in the southeastern U.S., with reports of severe weather most numerous in North Carolina. Golf ball size hail was reported at Tick Creek and a number of other locations in North Carolina. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

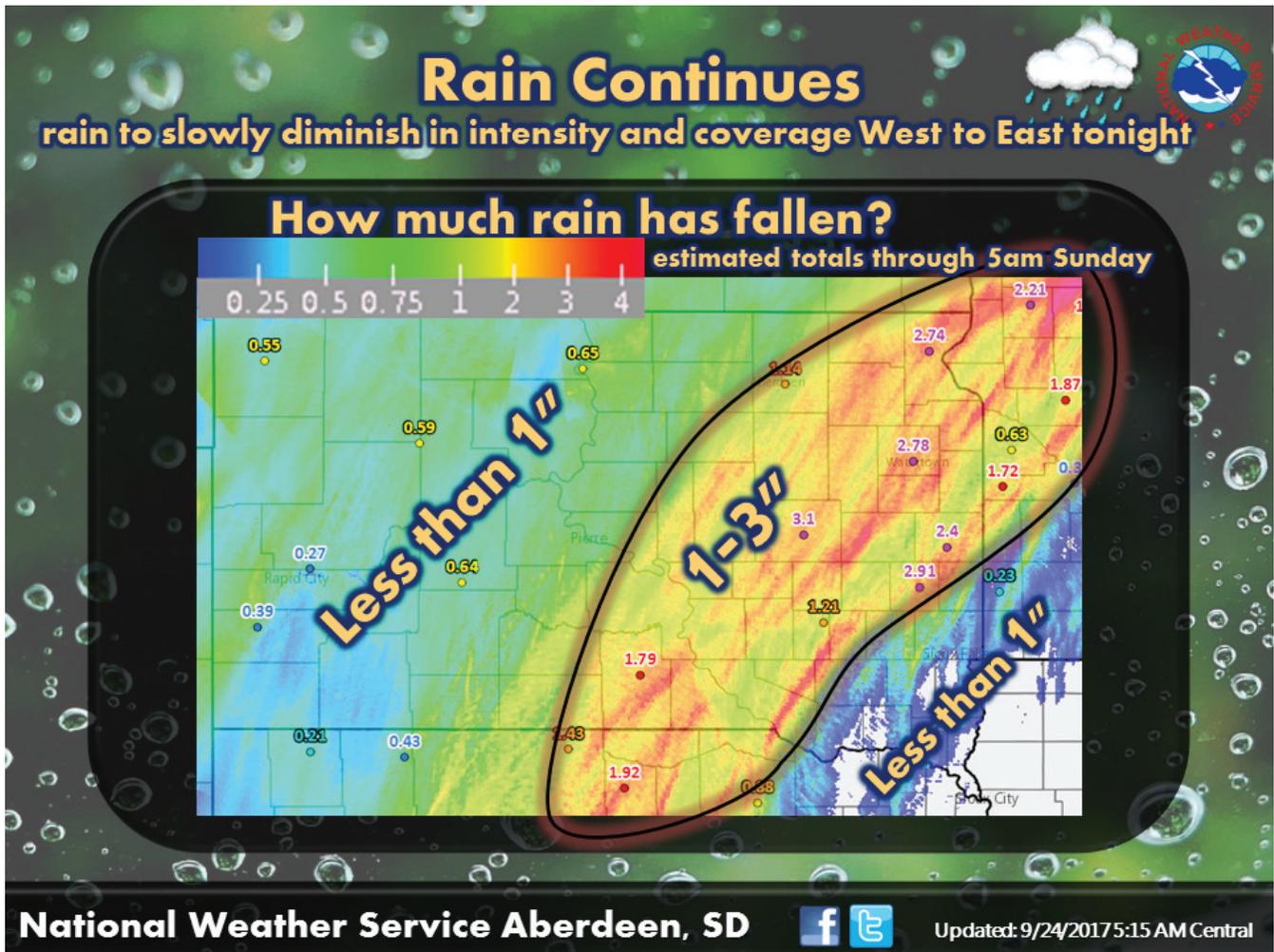
1989 - Forty-seven cities between the Rockies and the Appalachians reported record low temperatures for the date. Lows of 38 degrees at Abilene TX, 34 degrees at Jackson KY, and 36 degrees at Midland TX established records for the month of September. The low of 36 degrees at Midland smashed their previous record for the date by thirteen degrees. Fayetteville AR and Springfield MO reported their earliest freeze of record. Thunderstorms produced torrential rains in northeastern Florida. Jacksonville was deluged with 11.40 inches of rain, and flash flooding resulted in two deaths. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1998: Four hurricanes were spinning simultaneously in the Atlantic basin: Georges, Ivan, Jeanne, and Karl. That was the first time this had happened since 1893.

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Today	Tonight	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday	Tuesday Night	Wednesday
						
90%	40%	20%	50%	20%		
Showers	Chance Showers	Cloudy then Slight Chance Showers	Chance Showers	Slight Chance Showers	Partly Cloudy	Sunny
High: 57 °F	Low: 48 °F	High: 56 °F	Low: 44 °F	High: 60 °F	Low: 41 °F	High: 67 °F



Off and on showers will slowly diminish in intensity and coverage from west to east tonight. This will be thanks to the elongated area of low pressure finally exiting across Minnesota. A rumble of thunder or tow will still be possible over eastern South Dakota and western Minnesota into this evening. Additional rainfall should range from around 0.25 to 0.75 inches, with the highest amounts over and east of the James River Valley. Rainfall totals through early this morning have ranged from 0.25 to just over 3 inches.

Published on: 09/24/2017 at 5:21AM

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 55.9

Low Outside Temp: 51.5

High Gust: 18

Precip: 2.20

Today's Info

Record High: 90° in 1935

Record Low: 23° in 2000

Average High: 68°F

Average Low: 42°F

Average Precip in Sept: 1.76

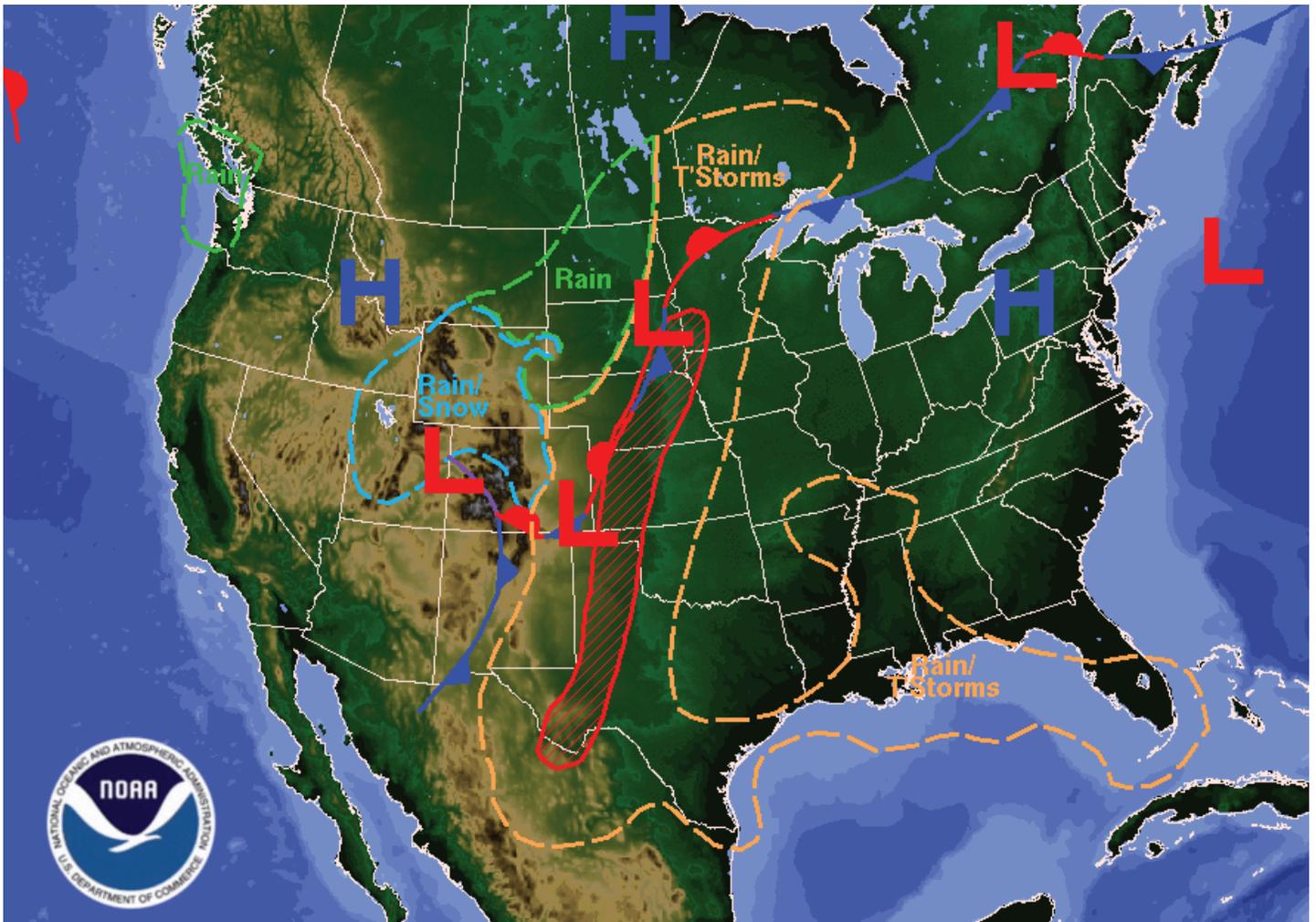
Precip to date in Sept: 3.07

Average Precip to date: 18.05

Precip Year to Date: 12.59

Sunset Tonight: 7:26 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:43 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Sun, Sep 24, 2017, issued 4:30 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Santorelli 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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NEED HELP? WANT HOPE?

On one special occasion, Queen Elizabeth, decided to honor a nobleman for his service by giving him a ring. As she presented him the ring she said, "If you are ever in trouble, send the ring to me and I will help you."

But there is one who is much more powerful than a king or a queen, a president or a premier who is available to us: "The Mighty One, God, the Lord," declared the Psalmist. "Call upon Me in the day of trouble, I will deliver you and you will honor Me," is His enduring promise.

The language of The Mighty One is very significant. He did not say, "Don't call me – I'll call you when I have time." Nor did He say, "That problem's insignificant" or "Your concern does not matter to me," or "I'll refer that to someone else later." Our God, who is richer than the richest and stronger than the strongest and the greatest friend we can have, says to each of us, "Call me when you are facing troubles and need help. I'm always available." Is that not exciting? If you are facing a difficult problem as you are reading this "Seed" you can put it aside – right now – and He's waiting for You to call on Him in prayer.

Not only is He available, but He gives us the assurance that He will deliver us. What good is His availability if He is too powerless to protect us, too weak to fight for us, too poor to meet our needs? Whatever trouble we are facing – large or small, ours or someone we love – He guarantees a timely, effective and positive solution. He will deliver us when we call!

But He does make one simple request of us: "You will honor me." The goal of our prayer must not be to bring attention to ourselves for what He has done or will do for us, it must always be to bring honor to His name in all we do!

Prayer: Thank You, Father, for the hope we have in You and Your willingness to hear our prayer and Your ability to deliver us. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 50:15b I will deliver you, and you will honor me.

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News from the Associated Press

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Dakota Cash

13-15-25-33-34

(thirteen, fifteen, twenty-five, thirty-three, thirty-four)

Estimated jackpot: \$25,000

Hot Lotto

11-12-30-41-47, Hot Ball: 5

(eleven, twelve, thirty, forty-one, forty-seven; Hot Ball: five)

Estimated jackpot: \$10.84 million

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$15 million

Powerball

24-45-55-56-57, Powerball: 19, Power Play: 2

(twenty-four, forty-five, fifty-five, fifty-six, fifty-seven; Powerball: nineteen; Power Play: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$53 million

Saturday's Scores

By The Associated Press

Volleyball

Crazy Horse def. Wakpala, 30-28, 25-22, 25-15

Harrisburg def. Aberdeen Central, 12-25, 25-23, 29-27, 25-17

Belle Fourche Tournament

Pool Play

Pool A

Belle Fourche def. Wall, 25-17, 25-23

Belle Fourche def. Hot Springs, 25-16, 25-16

Belle Fourche def. Bennett County, 25-16, 25-13

Hot Springs def. Bennett County, 25-22, 25-20

Hot Springs def. Wall, 26-28, 25-23, 25-21

Wall def. Bennett County, 25-19, 19-25, 25-21

Pool B

Bowman County, N.D. def. Rapid City Christian, 25-16, 18-25, 25-20

Philip def. Moorcroft, Wyo., 25-20, 25-15

Philip def. Bowman County, N.D., 25-15, 25-17

Philip def. Rapid City Christian, 16-25, 25-12, 25-7

Rapid City Christian def. Moorcroft, Wyo., 24-26, 25-19, 25-16

Pool C

Hill City def. Douglas, 25-23, 25-16

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Spearfish def. Douglas, 25-18, 25-5
Spearfish def. St. Thomas More, 25-21, 25-8
Spearfish def. Hill City, 25-16, 25-14
St. Thomas More def. Hill City, 25-14, 25-12
St. Thomas More def. Douglas, 23-25, 25-17, 28-26
Pool D
Broadus, Mont. def. Rapid City Central JV, 25-20, 25-21
Lead-Deadwood def. Rapid City Central JV, 24-26, 25-20, 25-16
Lead-Deadwood def. Broadus, Mont., 25-21, 16-25, 26-24
Sturgis def. Broadus, Mont., 25-9, 20-25, 25-14
Sturgis def. Rapid City Central JV, 25-18, 25-16
Sturgis def. Lead-Deadwood, 25-17, 21-25, 25-21
Consolation Semifinal
Rapid City Christian def. Hill City, 25-17, 19-25, 25-16
Wall def. Broadus, Mont., 25-12, 25-18
Consolation Championship
Rapid City Christian def. Wall, 25-19, 18-25, 25-19
Quarterfinal
Belle Fourche def. Bowman County, N.D., 25-15, 25-22
Philip def. Hot Springs, 25-14, 25-13
Spearfish def. Lead-Deadwood, 25-13, 25-11
Sturgis def. St. Thomas More, 25-23, 27-25, 9-25
Semifinal
Belle Fourche def. St. Thomas More, 25-15, 18-25, 25-15
Spearfish def. Philip, 25-14, 25-16
Championship
Belle Fourche def. Spearfish, 25-16, 25-19
Central South Dakota Conference Tournament
First Round
Miller def. Highmore-Harrold, 25-9, 25-13
Mobridge-Pollock def. Faulkton, 25-23, 26-24
Sully Buttes def. Sunshine Bible Academy, 25-16, 25-9
Wolsey-Wessington def. Potter County, 25-23, 25-23
Consolation Semifinal
Faulkton def. Sunshine Bible Academy, 25-19, 25-18
Potter County def. Highmore-Harrold, 25-21, 25-14
Semifinal
Miller def. Wolsey-Wessington, 25-15, 25-18
Sully Buttes def. Mobridge-Pollock, 25-15, 25-23
Seventh Place
Highmore-Harrold def. Sunshine Bible Academy, 25-13, 24-26, 25-12
Fifth Place
Potter County def. Faulkton, 25-14, 25-18
Third Place
Mobridge-Pollock def. Wolsey-Wessington, 25-17, 25-18
Championship
Miller def. Sully Buttes, 25-18, 25-19
Eastern Tournament
First Round
Dakota Valley def. Sisseton, 25-7, 25-9

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Elk Point-Jefferson def. Chamberlain, 25-12, 25-20
Tea Area def. Milbank Area, 23-25, 25-22, 25-13
Winner def. Tri-Valley, 31-29, 24-26, 25-8
Consolation Semifinal
Milbank Area def. Tri-Valley, 14-25, 25-14, 25-21
Sisseton def. Chamberlain, 25-19, 25-20
Semifinal
Dakota Valley def. Elk Point-Jefferson, 25-19, 25-16
Tea Area def. Winner, 25-18, 18-25, 31-29
Seventh Place
Tri-Valley def. Chamberlain, 25-22, 25-20
Fifth Place
Milbank Area def. Sisseton, 25-13, 25-15
Third Place
Elk Point-Jefferson def. Winner, 15-25, 25-18, 25-15
Championship
Dakota Valley def. Tea Area, 25-17, 25-21
Elkton-Lake Benton Tournament
Alcester-Hudson def. Iroquois, 25-12, 25-8
Alcester-Hudson def. Dell Rapids St. Mary, 25-22, 25-15
Alcester-Hudson def. Irene-Wakonda, 25-23, 25-15
Dell Rapids St. Mary def. Irene-Wakonda, 25-27, 25-18, 25-19
Elkton-Lake Benton def. Alcester-Hudson, 25-23, 25-21
Hills-Beaver Creek, Minn. def. Irene-Wakonda, 25-12, 25-17
Hills-Beaver Creek, Minn. def. Alcester-Hudson, 25-19, 25-14
Irene-Wakonda def. Iroquois, 25-21, 25-19
Kimball-White Lake Tournament
Pool Play
Pool A
Canistota def. Colome, 25-19, 25-18
Canistota def. Wessington Springs, 25-16, 25-19
Colome def. Wessington Springs, 25-20, 25-22
Kimball/White Lake def. Wessington Springs, 25-15, 25-11
Kimball/White Lake def. Colome, 25-19, 25-14
Kimball/White Lake def. Canistota, 25-11, 25-19
Pool B
Burke/South Central def. Jones County, 25-8, 25-15
Burke/South Central def. Freeman, 26-24, 25-22
Freeman def. Jones County, 25-14, 26-24
Fifth Place
Jones County def. Colome, 25-15, 25-19
Third Place
Canistota def. Freeman, 25-23, 25-19
Championship
Kimball/White Lake def. Burke/South Central, 25-23, 25-19
Little Moreau Conference Tournament (LMC)
First Round
Faith def. Dupree, 25-16, 25-20
McIntosh def. Bison, 25-10, 25-12
Sanford Pentagon Tournament

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Orange Division

Pool A

Colman-Egan def. Hitchcock-Tulare, 25-18, 25-12

Hanson def. Hitchcock-Tulare, 25-10, 25-19

Hanson def. Colman-Egan, 25-17, 18-25, 25-20

Pool B

Bridgewater-Emery def. Avon, 25-14, 25-19

Sioux Valley def. Bridgewater-Emery, 25-11, 25-13

Sioux Valley def. Avon, 25-7, 25-15

Pool C

Aberdeen Roncalli def. Howard, 26-24, 25-14

Aberdeen Roncalli def. Bon Homme, 25-14, 25-17

Howard def. Bon Homme, 25-12, 25-15

Quarterfinal

Bridgewater-Emery def. Howard, 25-22, 25-15

Colman-Egan def. Aberdeen Roncalli, 25-13, 9-25, 25-19

Semifinal

Hanson def. Bridgewater-Emery, 25-8, 25-14

Sioux Valley def. Colman-Egan, 25-16, 19-25, 25-10

Consolation

Avon def. Bon Homme, 25-8, 25-13

Hitchcock-Tulare def. Avon, 20-25, 25-19, 25-21

Hitchcock-Tulare def. Bon Homme, 25-17, 25-11

Fifth Place

Aberdeen Roncalli def. Howard, 25-22, 25-16

Third Place

Colman-Egan def. Bridgewater-Emery, 25-23, 23-25, 25-18

Championship

Sioux Valley def. Hanson, 20-25, 25-18, 25-14

Blue Division

Pool A

Dell Rapids def. Rapid City Central, 23-25, 25-16, 25-23

Rapid City Central def. Western Christian, Hull, Iowa, 25-7, 25-9

Western Christian, Hull, Iowa def. Dell Rapids, 25-11, 25-13

Pool B

Central Lyon, Rock Rapids, Iowa def. Redfield/Doland, 25-16, 25-14

Chester def. Redfield/Doland, 25-7, 25-14

Chester def. Central Lyon, Rock Rapids, Iowa, 25-23, 25-22

Pool C

Madison def. Parker, 20-25, 25-23, 25-16

Madison def. Spirit Lake, Iowa, 25-16, 25-16

Parker def. Spirit Lake, Iowa, 25-23, 25-23

Pool D

Mt. Vernon/Plankinton def. West Central, 20-25, 26-24, 25-20

Warner def. West Central, 25-17, 25-14

Warner def. Mt. Vernon/Plankinton, 25-5, 25-10

Silver Pool

Central Lyon, Rock Rapids, Iowa def. Parker, 25-15, 23-25, 25-17

Dell Rapids def. Mt. Vernon/Plankinton, 28-26, 25-16

Bronze Pool

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Redfield/Doland def. Spirit Lake, Iowa, 26-24, 25-13
West Central def. Rapid City Central, 25-23, 9-25, 25-21
Semifinal
Madison def. Chester, 25-22, 25-20
Western Christian, Hull, Iowa def. Warner, 25-20, 21-25, 25-18
Seventh Place
Parker def. Mt. Vernon/Plankinton, 25-13, 25-16
Eleventh Place
Rapid City Central def. Spirit Lake, Iowa, 25-22, 25-12
Ninth Place
West Central def. Redfield/Doland, 19-25, 25-14, 25-19
Fifth Place
Dell Rapids def. Central Lyon, Rock Rapids, Iowa, 25-20, 27-25
Third Place
Warner def. Chester, 25-17, 26-24
Championship
Western Christian, Hull, Iowa def. Madison, 25-9, 25-23

Patrol identifies man who died in rollover near Hot Springs

HOT SPRINGS, S.D. (AP) — Authorities have identified a man killed in a single-vehicle crash in Fall River County.

The South Dakota Highway Patrol says 73-year-old Merlyn Haug was driving a pickup truck that left state Highway 71 and rolled Tuesday morning. He died at the scene, about 10 miles south of Hot Springs. The crash remains under investigation.

NFL owners speak out in support of players, against Trump

By DAVE CAMPBELL, AP Pro Football Writer

The NFL's players and owners are frequently at odds over the issues, finances and rules of the game, a long-running feud that looms large toward another potential work stoppage after the 2020 season.

The two sides in the nation's most popular professional sports league united on Saturday in a manner unseen in years, sounding a resolute chord in decrying President Donald Trump's remarks about players kneeling during the national anthem.

"Wouldn't you love to see one of these NFL owners, when somebody disrespects our flag, you'd say, 'Get that son of a bitch off the field right now. Out! He's fired,'" Trump said to loud applause Friday night at a rally in Huntsville, Alabama, comments he kept echoing over the next two days.

"If NFL fans refuse to go to games until players stop disrespecting our Flag & Country, you will see change take place fast. Fire or suspend!" the president said in a Sunday morning tweet.

Quarterback Colin Kaepernick started the movement last year when he played for the San Francisco 49ers, refusing to stand during "The Star-Spangled Banner" to protest the treatment of black people by police. Kaepernick became a free agent and has not been signed by a new team for this season.

Without naming Kaepernick, Trump aimed his talk at those players who have knelt for the anthem.

"That's a total disrespect of our heritage. That's a total disrespect of everything that we stand for," Trump said.

The Buffalo Bills were bothered enough by the situation to hold a voluntary team meeting on Saturday, with players, coaches, staff and ownership all taking part.

"Our goal was to provide open dialogue and communication. We listened to one another. We believe it's the best way to work through any issue we are facing, on and off the field," owners Terry and Kim Pegula said in a statement distributed by the Bills. "President Trump's remarks were divisive and disrespectful to the entire NFL community, but we tried to use them as an opportunity to further unify our team and our

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organization. Our players have the freedom to express themselves in a respectful and thoughtful manner and we all agreed that our sole message is to provide and to promote an environment that is focused on love and equality."

Commissioner Roger Goodell, who has taken heat for Kaepernick's struggle to find a team, quickly condemned Trump's comments.

"The NFL and our players are at our best when we help create a sense of unity in our country and our culture. There is no better example than the amazing response from our clubs and players to the terrible natural disasters we've experienced over the last month," Goodell said. "Divisive comments like these demonstrate an unfortunate lack of respect for the NFL, our great game and all of our players, and a failure to understand the overwhelming force for good our clubs and players represent in our communities."

At least seven team owners donated \$1 million each to Trump's inaugural committee. But Los Angeles Chargers owner Dean Spanos, Atlanta Falcons owner Arthur Blank, New York Giants owners John Mara and Steve Tisch, Miami Dolphins owner Stephen Ross, Indianapolis Colts owner Jim Irsay, Tennessee Titans' controlling owner Amy Adams Strunk and San Francisco 49ers owner Jed York were among the league power-brokers who issued condemning statements through their clubs.

"The callous and offensive comments made by the president are contradictory to what this great country stands for," York said. "Our players have exercised their rights as United States citizens in order to spark conversation and action to address social injustice. We will continue to support them in their peaceful pursuit of positive change in our country and around the world."

Added Green Bay Packers President and CEO Mark Murphy: "We believe it is important to support any of our players who choose to peacefully express themselves with the hope of change for good. As Americans, we are fortunate to be able to speak openly and freely."

This weekend's games were sure to bring more protests, with Tampa Bay receiver Deshaun Jackson promising to make "a statement."

"I know our players who kneeled for the anthem, and these are smart young men of character who want to make our world a better place for everyone," Ross said. "They wanted to start a conversation and are making a difference in our community, including working with law enforcement to bring people together. We all can benefit from learning, listening and respecting each other."

AP Sports Writer John Wawrow in Buffalo, New York, contributed to this report.

For more NFL coverage: <http://www.pro32.ap.org> and http://www.twitter.com/AP_NFL

Trump travel ban expires Sunday; new restrictions expected

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump is expected to announce new restrictions on travel to the United States as his ban on visitors from six Muslim-majority countries expires Sunday, 90 days after it went into effect.

The Department of Homeland Security has recommended the president sign off on new, more targeted restrictions on foreign nationals from countries it says refuse to share information with the U.S. or haven't taken necessary security precautions.

Officials haven't said which — or how many — countries will be affected by the new restrictions, which could take effect as soon as Sunday.

"The acting secretary has recommended actions that are tough and that are tailored, including restrictions and enhanced screening for certain countries," said Miles Taylor, counselor to acting Homeland Security Secretary Elaine Duke.

The current ban bars citizens of Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen who lack a "credible claim of a bona fide relationship with a person or entity in the United States" from entering the U.S.

Unlike Trump's first travel ban, which sparked chaos at airports across the country and a flurry of legal challenges, officials said they have been working for months on the new rules, in collaboration with vari-

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ous agencies and in conversation with foreign governments.

The recommendations are based on a new baseline developed by DHS that includes factors such as whether countries issue electronic passports with biometric information and share information about travelers' terror-related and criminal histories. The U.S. then shared those benchmarks with every country in the world and gave them 50 days to comply.

The citizens of countries that refused could now face travel restrictions and more stringent screening measures that would last indefinitely, until their governments complied.

Trump last week called for a "tougher" travel ban after a bomb partially exploded on a London subway.

"The travel ban into the United States should be far larger, tougher and more specific-but stupidly, that would not be politically correct!" he tweeted.

Critics have accused Trump of overstepping his authority and violating the U.S. Constitution's protections against religious bias. Trump had called for a "total and complete shutdown of Muslims entering the United States" during his campaign.

Merkel bids for fourth term as Germans head to the polls

By KIRSTEN GRIESHABER, Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — Chancellor Angela Merkel was widely expected to win a fourth term in office as Germans went to the polls on Sunday in an election that is also likely to see the farthest right-wing party in 60 years, the anti-migrant Alternative for Germany, win seats in parliament.

Merkel campaigned on her record as chancellor for 12 years, emphasizing the country's record-low unemployment, strong economic growth, balanced budget and growing international importance.

That's helped keep her conservative bloc well atop the polls ahead of Sunday's election over the center-left Social Democrats of challenger Martin Schulz.

Schulz voted together with his wife Inge in the city hall of his hometown of Wuerselen in western Germany.

"I hope that as many people as possible will cast their vote today and strengthen the democratic future of Germany," Schulz told reporters.

Merkel's conservative Christian Democratic Party and its sister party, the Bavaria-only Christian Social Union, have governed the country for the last four years with the Social Democrats in a so-called "grand coalition." Most forecasts suggest that coalition will win another majority in Sunday's election outcome, but several different coalition government combinations could be possible.

Pollsters said earlier in the week that many of the 61.5 million who were eligible to vote had remained undecided until the very last moment. That included Bernhard Sommerfeld, a 62-year-old book seller, who cast his vote Sunday morning in Berlin after the opening of the polling stations at 8 a.m. (0600GMT).

"I was really undecided," Sommerfeld said. "I didn't know which party I should cast my vote for — it was very difficult."

Only a few people came to the polling stations on a cold and drizzly morning in the German capital, which also hosted its annual marathon Sunday. Many streets in the city were blocked as runners zigzagged their way through Berlin in an often festive mood with local bands playing on street corners and bystanders cheering and applauding.

Jens Schubert, an orchestra manager, also said this election was a difficult one for him.

"I usually vote for the same party from the left spectrum — the Green Party — but this time I voted for a different party," the 54-year-old said as he came out of a polling station in Berlin's Mitte neighborhood where Merkel was also expected to cast her vote later in the day.

The latest polls had Merkel's conservative bloc at 34 to 37 percent support, the center-left Social Democrats with 21 to 22 percent and the anti-migrant Alternative for Germany, or AfD, with 10 to 13 percent support.

Germany's president, Frank-Walter Steinmeier, appealed to his fellow citizens to go out and cast their vote, because "these elections are also about the future of democracy and the future of Europe."

Countries across Europe have seen a rise of anti-migrant and populist parties in recent elections and several German pollsters have forecast that the anti-migrant, anti-Europe AfD, which appears assured of

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gaining seats in the national parliament for the first time, may come in as third-strongest party.

The AfD has led an aggressive campaign that was dominated by hostile slogans against the more than 1 million, mostly Muslim migrants who arrived in Germany in the last two years. They're aiming to grab votes from conservatives who in the past have voted for Merkel's party, but are unhappy with her welcoming stance toward refugees.

In addition to the AfD, the Greens, the Free Democratic Party and the Left Party were all poised to enter parliament with poll numbers between 8 and 11 percent.

David Rising and Kerstin Sopke contributed reporting from Berlin.

US flies mission north of DMZ, sends message to North Korea

By **ROBERT BURNS** and **MATTHEW PENNINGTON**, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a show of American military might to North Korea, U.S. bombers and fighter escorts flew on Saturday to the farthest point north of the border between North and South Korea by any such American aircraft this century. The Pentagon said the mission in international airspace showed how seriously President Donald Trump takes North Korea's "reckless behavior."

"This mission is a demonstration of U.S. resolve and a clear message that the president has many military options to defeat any threat," Defense Department spokesman Dana White said in a statement.

"North Korea's weapons program is a grave threat to the Asia-Pacific region and the entire international community. We are prepared to use the full range of military capabilities to defend the U.S. homeland and our allies," White said.

North Korea's leader, Kim Jong Un, has said Trump would "pay dearly" for threatening to "totally destroy" North Korea if the U.S. was forced to defend itself or its allies against a North Korean attack. Kim's foreign minister told reporters this past week that the North's response to Trump "could be the most powerful detonation of an H-bomb in the Pacific."

North Korea has said it intends to build a missile capable of striking all parts of the United States with a nuclear bomb. Trump has said he won't allow it, although the U.S. so far has not used military force to impede the North's progress.

The Pentagon said B-1B bombers from Guam, along with F-15C Eagle fighter escorts from Okinawa, Japan, flew in international airspace over waters east of North Korea on Saturday. The U.S. characterized the flights as extending farther north of the Demilitarized Zone, than any U.S. fighter or bomber had gone off the North Korean coast in the 21st century.

B-1 bombers are no longer part of the U.S. nuclear force, but they are capable of dropping large numbers of conventional bombs.

U.S. Pacific Command would not be more specific about many years it had been since U.S. bombers and fighters had flown that far north of the DMZ, but a spokesman, Navy Cmdr. Dave Benham, noted that this century "encompasses the period North Korea has been testing ballistic missiles and nuclear weapons."

At the United Nations, North Korea's foreign minister, Ri Yong Ho, said Saturday that his country's nuclear force is "to all intents and purposes, a war deterrent for putting an end to nuclear threat of the U.S. and for preventing its military invasion, and our ultimate goal is to establish the balance of power with the U.S."

He also said that Trump's depiction of Kim as "Rocket Man" makes "our rocket's visit to the entire U.S. mainland inevitable all the more."

Trump on Friday had renewed his rhetorical offensive against Kim.

"Kim Jong Un of North Korea, who is obviously a madman who doesn't mind starving or killing his people, will be tested like never before!" the president tweeted.

Trump continued the heated exchange with the North Koreans Saturday night.

He tweeted: "Just heard Foreign Minister of North Korea speak at U.N. If he echoes thoughts of Little Rocket Man, they won't be around much longer!"

On Thursday, Trump announced more economic sanctions against the impoverished and isolated country,

targeting foreign companies that deal with the North.

"North Korea's nuclear weapons and missile development is a grave threat to peace and security in our world and it is unacceptable that others financially support this criminal, rogue regime," Trump said as he joined Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and South Korean President Moon Jae-in for a meeting in New York.

Hours later, Kim responded by saying Trump was "deranged."

In a speech last week at the United Nations, Trump had issued the warning of potential obliteration and mocked the North's young autocrat as a "Rocket Man" on a "suicide mission."

Trump's executive order expanded the Treasury Department's ability to target anyone conducting significant trade in goods, services or technology with North Korea, and to ban them from interacting with the U.S. financial system.

Trump also said China was imposing major banking sanctions, too, but there was no immediate confirmation from the North's most important trading partner.

If enforced, the Chinese action Trump described could severely impede the isolated North's ability to raise money for its missile and nuclear development. China, responsible for about 90 percent of North Korea's trade, serves as the country's conduit to the international banking system.

Life, death in balance for Mexico quake survivors

By **CHRISTINE ARMARIO** and **GISELA SALOMON**, Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — In a hospital room blocks away from where he survived 26 hours buried under the rubble of his nine-story apartment building, Jose Luis Ponce lay sedated and on a respirator, alive but with fractures to multiple bones and damage to his lungs and a kidney.

"You said you would be with me always," his daughter, Claudia Ponce, 30, told him. "Now is not the moment to leave."

Across town in Mexico City, 58-year-old Julieta Calderas was also clinging to life Saturday morning. Crushed by a human stampede at a popular mall during Tuesday's harrowing 7.1-magnitude quake, doctors warned the family she was essentially brain dead. Still, her niece refused to believe she might not leave the hospital alive.

"Death is a natural part of life," Rosangel Aguilar said, sitting on a concrete bench with other families outside Xoco General Hospital. "But we cannot accept it."

As rescuers dig through the remnants of 38 collapsed buildings in Mexico City, they have pulled dozens of lifeless bodies from the wreckage but numerous survivors, too. Mexico's marines, considered the nation's most elite troops, said they have recovered 102 bodies and rescued 115 people in the aftermath.

Many of those survivors are now in Mexico City hospitals with injuries ranging from fractures and bruises to severe brain injuries. After long, desperate hours and days holding out hope their loved ones would be found alive, relatives consider themselves the lucky ones. Yet for many survivors the plight ahead is long and uncertain.

"She still can't move," said Cintia Morales, 29, whose diabetic mother is believed to have suffered a heart attack during the quake. "All she can say is, 'Yes.'"

When the ground began trembling Jose Luis Ponce was in his second-floor apartment with his 33-year-old daughter, Marisol Souza. Ponce is a retired salesman who at one point worked for 3M, the multinational manufacturing company. Souza was studying for her master's degree in business administration and had just returned from a trip to Panama.

Seven floors of concrete fell on top of them. Claudia Ponce, 30, was traveling with her family in Colombia at the time. They rushed back as quickly as possible, getting contradicting reports in the meantime on whether they were dead or alive.

At one point, Claudia Ponce heard rescuers say they believed they had detected signs of life from Souza. Later, she heard reports that both her father and sister had been pulled from the debris and were in

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ambulances heading to the hospital.

One day and two hours after the quake, Jose Luis Ponce was carefully removed from the mass of twisted metal and concrete. In the brief moments in which his family was able to speak with him, he told them how he'd survived: He closed a door and stood in the frame, protecting his head, though trapping his legs.

"The truth is, it was a miracle," Claudia Ponce said.

Jose Luis Ponce's daughter, Souza, was not as lucky. A search team later pulled her lifeless remains from the rubble, along with that of her dog, Max.

Now Claudia is permanently stationed at her father's bedside and in the plastic chairs in the sparse hospital's waiting room.

"The diagnosis is very conservative," she said. "They tell you it's evolving. He's still in serious condition. If not, he wouldn't be here. But I have a lot of faith."

Brenda Clement, 36, was also pulled from rubble after the earthquake. She'd gone out that day with her 3-year-old son to buy him a new pair of shoes in Jojutla, part of Morelos state, where streets were left in ruins after the quake. As the floor shook Clement rushed outside, where she was then crushed by debris from a falling house.

Rodrigo Solorzano, 35, her husband, tried calling her cellphone for an hour. When he finally got a response, the voice of a man he didn't recognize answered.

It was the person who had rescued her.

The man, whose name he still does not know, told Solorzano he'd taken his wife to the emergency room and that his son was with the Red Cross. But when Solorzano went to the Red Cross to pick up his son, the only child there was a dead boy matching his description.

Workers offered to show him the body, but he refused.

"I didn't want to identify him because that would mean losing hope he was alive," Solorzano said Saturday, recalling the wrenching ordeal.

While family members posted pictures of Solorzano's missing son on social media he went to the hospital to be with his wife. After being led to rooms with patients hospital workers thought might be his wife, one crying out in agony, another with a swollen face, he finally found her, alive but with a severely broken leg.

Doctors thought they might have to amputate but are now hoping they might be able to transfer part of her hip to her leg allowing her to walk again one day.

"My wife, thank God, has been born again," Solorzano said.

Five hours after the quake, he received more good news: Someone had seen the family's social media posts and recognized their son. He was alive and returned safely to his family, the only hint of the calamity a few scrapes on his body.

Already-jittery families of survivors at Mexico City's hospitals were shaken up again Saturday morning when a new 6.1-magnitude quake struck. As the seismic alarms blared doctors and nurses yelled at relatives to evacuate.

Aguilar, who was by her aunt's side, refused to leave.

"God has my time," she said. "Whatever will be will be."

Later that afternoon, as the family gathered at the hospital, Julieta Calderas took her last breath, four days after she was trampled at the Galerias Coapa mall as glass and metal fell around her.

"Her heart stopped beating," Aguilar said. "Her heart couldn't keep fighting."

New earthquake, magnitude 6.1, shakes jittery Mexico

By PETER ORSI, MARIA VERZA and GISELA SALOMON, Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — A strong new earthquake shook Mexico on Saturday, killing at least two people, toppling already damaged homes and a highway bridge, and causing new alarm in a country reeling from two even more powerful quakes that together have killed more than 400 people.

The U.S. Geological Survey said the new, magnitude 6.1 temblor was centered about 11 miles (18 kilometers) south-southeast of Matias Romero in the state of Oaxaca, which was the region most battered

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by a magnitude 8.1 quake on Sept. 7.

It was among thousands of aftershocks recorded in the wake of that earlier quake, which was the most powerful to hit Mexico in 32 years and killed at least 96 people.

The government of Oaxaca state reported that some homes collapsed. A woman died when a wall of her home fell on her in the town of Asuncion Ixtaltepec, and a man died after a wall fell on him in San Blas Atempa.

Four people were injured in Juchitan and three in Tlacotepec, but none of their lives were in danger. Another person suffered a broken clavicle in the town of Xadani. Three hotels and two churches were damaged and a highway bridge collapsed. The Federal Police agency said the bridge already been closed due to damage after the Sept. 7 quake.

Bettina Cruz, a resident of Juchitan, Oaxaca, said by phone with her voice still shaking that the new quake felt "horrible."

"Homes that were still standing just fell down," Cruz said. "It's hard. We are all in the streets."

Cruz belongs to a social collective and said that when the shaking began, she was riding in a truck carrying supplies to victims of the earlier quake.

Nataniel Hernandez said by phone from Tonalá, in the southern state of Chiapas, which was also hit hard by the earlier quake, that it was one of the strongest aftershocks he has felt.

"Since Sept. 7 it has not stopped shaking," Hernandez.

U.S. Geological Survey geophysicist Paul Caruso said the new temblor was an aftershock of the 8.1 quake, and after a jolt of that size even buildings left standing can be more vulnerable.

"So a smaller earthquake can cause the damaged buildings to fail," Caruso said.

"At the moment the greatest damage has been to the Ixtaltepec bridge, which should be rebuilt, and structures with previous damage that collapsed," President Enrique Peña Nieto tweeted. He said government workers were fanning out in Juchitan to provide help to anyone who needs it.

Jaime Hernandez, director of the Federal Electrical Commission, said the quake knocked out power to 327,000 homes and businesses in Oaxaca but service had been restored to 72 percent of customers within a few hours.

Buildings swayed in Mexico City, where nerves are still raw from Tuesday's magnitude 7.1 temblor that has killed at least 307 across the region. Many residents and visitors fled homes, hotels and businesses, some in tears.

And the Popocatepetl volcano near Mexico City spewed a cloud of vapor with some ash about a mile (2 kilometers) into the air Saturday, but experts said it was not related to the quakes. The 17,797-foot (5,426-meter) volcano has been periodically erupting since 1994.

And late Saturday, Tropical Storm Pilar formed close to Mexico's western Pacific coast. Pilar was expected to remain a tropical storm and brush the coast near the resort of Puerto Vallarta, according to the U.S. National Hurricane Center.

Pilar had winds of 40 mph (65 kph) and was located about 70 miles west-southwest of the port city of Manzanillo. It was moving north at about 5 mph (7 kph).

At Mexico City's Xoco General Hospital, which is treating the largest number of quake victims, workers ordered visitors to evacuate when seismic alarms began to blare Saturday.

That included Syntia Pereda, 43, who was reluctant to leave the bedside of her sleeping boyfriend. Jesus Gonzalez, 49, fell from a third-story balcony of a building where he was working during Tuesday's quake and was awaiting surgery.

But she controlled her emotions, went outside and came back when the trembling was over.

"We are getting used to this," Pereda said. "Every so often we hear the alarm ... you say, well, it is God's will."

Alejandra Castellanos was on the second floor of a hotel in a central neighborhood of Mexico City and ran down the stairs and outside with her husband.

"I was frightened because I thought, not again!" Castellanos said.

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Mayor Miguel Angel Mancera said there were no reports of significant new damage in the capital, and rescue efforts related to Tuesday's quake were continuing. He reported that two people died of apparent heart attacks during the new temblor.

At the site of an office building that collapsed Tuesday and where an around-the-clock search for survivors was still ongoing, rescuers briefly evacuated from atop the pile of rubble after the morning quake before returning to work removing cement, tiles and other debris.

As rescue operations stretched into Day 5, residents throughout the capital have held out hope that dozens still missing might be found alive. More than half the dead — 169 — perished in the capital, while another 73 died in the state of Morelos, 45 in Puebla, 13 in Mexico State, six in Guerrero and one in Oaxaca.

Along a 60-foot stretch of a bike lane in Mexico City, families huddled under tarps and donated blankets, awaiting word of loved ones trapped in the four-story-high pile of rubble behind them.

Lidia Albarran, whose niece was buried in the collapse of an office building a block away, heard the alarm and worried that the latest quake could endanger those under the pile of rubble.

"You feel fear. Before, earthquakes did not make me afraid, but now ... thinking about all that could have happened in the building," Albarran said.

In a city still on edge, many residents have spoken of lingering anxiety: imagining the ground is moving when it isn't, hearing a police siren wail and thinking it's a quake alarm, breaking into sobs at unexpected moments.

"There is collective panic. I feel afraid even when a car passes by," said Dulce Bueno, who came Saturday morning with her husband and daughter to the hard-hit Condesa neighborhood. They brought suitcases to collect the belongings of their daughter, who lived in a damaged building beside one that collapsed and who is now moving in with them.

"They have told us it is well constructed, that it's a bunker," Bueno said of her own home. "But if the tremors continue, will it hold up?"

Vicente Aparicio, 76, gazed at the building where he lived in southern Mexico City as his wife listened to an engineer explaining the damage it had suffered. He vowed never to return; his family is fortunate enough to have another apartment to go to and the means to go on with their lives.

"But what about those who do not?" Aparicio wondered.

He added: "How does a city recover from a shock like this?"

Associated Press writer Christine Armario contributed to this report.

North Korea stages anti-US rally in battle with Trump

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP) — North Korea has held a large anti-U.S. rally in its capital city, backing its leader Kim Jong Un as he exchanges insult-laden threats with President Donald Trump.

A huge crowd gathered Saturday in Pyongyang's Kim Il Sung Square, named for the current leader's grandfather and founder of North Korea. They listened to speeches from senior officials excoriating the United States and its president.

A parade of marchers carried signs with slogans such as "decisive revenge" and "death to the American imperialists." They shouted phrases such as "total destruction," according to the Korean Central News Agency, the state news service.

The crowd included workers, officials and students, KCNA said.

The rally capped two days of response to Trump's combative speech at the United Nations earlier in the week. The U.S. president mocked Kim as a "Rocket Man" on a "suicide mission," and said that the U.S. "will have no choice but to totally destroy North Korea" if forced to defend itself or its allies.

North Korea responded on Friday by distributing a rare statement directly from Kim. He called Trump a "mentally deranged U.S. dotard," and said his country would consider the "highest level of hard-line countermeasure in history."

Trump comments on Curry, NFL protests anger athletes

By CATHERINE LUCEY and TIM REYNOLDS, Associated Press

SOMERSET, N.J. (AP) — President Donald Trump denounced protests by NFL players and rescinded a White House invitation for NBA champion Stephen Curry in a two-day rant that targeted top professional athletes and brought swift condemnation Saturday from league executives and star players alike.

Wading into thorny issues of race and politics, Trump's comments in a Friday night speech and a series of Saturday tweets drew sharp responses from some of the nation's top athletes, with LeBron James calling the president a "bum." Hours later, Major League Baseball saw its first player take a knee during the national anthem.

Trump started by announcing that Curry, the popular two-time MVP for the Golden State Warriors, would not be welcome at the White House for the commemorative visit traditionally made by championship teams: "Going to the White House is considered a great honor for a championship team. Stephen Curry is hesitating, therefore invitation is withdrawn!"

Later, Trump reiterated what he said at a rally in Alabama the previous night — that NFL players who kneel for the national anthem should be fired, and called on NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell to tell them to stand. Goodell and several team owners criticized the comments.

The Warriors said it was clear they were not welcome at the White House.

Curry had said he did not want to go anyway, but the Warriors had not made a collective decision before Saturday — and had planned to discuss it in the morning before the president's tweet, to which coach Steve Kerr said: "Not surprised. He was going to break up with us before we could break up with him."

Others had far stronger reactions.

"U bum @StephenCurry30 already said he ain't going!" James tweeted in a clear message to the president — a post that Twitter officials said was quickly shared many more times than any other he's sent. "So therefore ain't no invite. Going to White House was a great honor until you showed up!"

Curry appreciated James' strong stance.

"That's a pretty strong statement," Curry said. "I think it's bold, it's courageous for any guy to speak up, let alone a guy that has as much to lose as LeBron does and other notable figures in the league. We all have to kind of stand as one the best we can."

Curry added that he doesn't believe Trump "respects the majority of Americans in this country."

James also released a video Saturday, saying Trump has tried to divide the country. "He's now using sports as the platform to try to divide us," James said. "We all know how much sports brings us together. ... It's not something I can be quiet about."

Warriors general manager Bob Myers said he was surprised by the invitation being pulled, and NBA Commissioner Adam Silver said he was disappointed that the Warriors won't be at the White House.

"The White House visit should be something that is celebrated," Myers said. "So we want to go to Washington, D.C., and do something to commemorate kind of who we are as an organization, what we feel, what we represent and at the same time spend our energy on that. Instead of looking backward, we want to look forward."

Added Kerr after his team's first practice of the season, "These are not normal times."

Bruce Maxwell, an African-American player for the Oakland Athletics, became the first major league baseball player to kneel during the national anthem. Teammate Mark Canha, who is white, put his right hand on one of Maxwell's shoulders during Saturday night's anthem. The Athletics released a statement saying they "respect and support all of our players' constitutional rights and freedom of expression."

In New York City's Central Park, musician Stevie Wonder declared, "Tonight, I take a knee for America. Both knees!" as he knelt on stage at the Global Citizen Festival.

As a candidate and as president, Trump's approach has at times seemed to inflame racial tensions in a deeply divided country while emboldening groups long in the shadows. Little more than a month ago, Trump came under fire for his response to a white supremacists' protest in Charlottesville, Virginia. Trump also pardoned Joe Arpaio, the former sheriff of Arizona's Maricopa County, who had been found guilty of

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defying a judge's order to stop racially profiling Latinos.

Trump's latest entry into the intersection of sports and politics started in Alabama on Friday night, when he said NFL players who refused to stand for "The Star-Spangled Banner" are exhibiting a "total disrespect of our heritage."

Several NFL players, starting last season with then-San Francisco quarterback Colin Kaepernick, have either knelt, sat or raised fists during the anthem to protest police treatment of blacks and social injustice. Last week at NFL games, four players sat or knelt during the anthem, and two raised fists while others stood by the protesters in support.

"That's a total disrespect of everything that we stand for," Trump said, encouraging owners to act. He added, "Wouldn't you love to see one of these NFL owners, when somebody disrespects our flag, you'd say, 'Get that son of a bitch off the field right now. Out! He's fired.'"

On Saturday, Trump echoed his stance.

"If a player wants the privilege of making millions of dollars in the NFL, or other leagues, he or she should not be allowed to disrespect our Great American Flag (or Country) and should stand for the National Anthem," Trump tweeted. "If not, YOU'RE FIRED. Find something else to do!"

There are 14 NFL games Sunday, including one in London. And how players act during the anthem will certainly be closely watched at each of those games.

"You have a chance to do something really great," music mogul Sean "Diddy" Combs told players in a tweet.

Tampa Bay receiver Deshaun Jackson, whose team plays at Minnesota, tweeted: "I definitely will be making a statement no disrespect to our military of service But we have to stick together as people !! Unity."

Trump has enjoyed strong support from NFL owners, with at least seven of them donating \$1 million each to Trump's inaugural committee. They include New England Patriots owner Bob Kraft, whom Trump considers a friend.

Goodell strongly backed the players and criticized Trump for "an unfortunate lack of respect for the NFL" while several team owners issued similar statements. New York Giants owners John Mara and Steve Tisch said the comments were inappropriate and offensive. Miami Dolphins owner Stephen Ross, who has supported the players who have knelt, said the country "needs unifying leadership right now, not more divisiveness," and San Francisco 49ers CEO Jed York ripped Trump's comments as "callous."

Hours after Goodell's comments, Trump said the commissioner had "put out a statement trying to justify the total disrespect certain players show to our country. Tell them to stand!"

Terry and Kim Pegula, the owners of the Buffalo Bills, said a number of players attended a voluntary meeting with team executives, including general manager Brandon Beane, coach Sean McDermott and members of his staff.

"President Trump's remarks were divisive and disrespectful to the entire NFL community but we tried to use them as an opportunity to further unify our team and our organization," the Pegulas said. "Our players have the freedom to express themselves in respectful and thoughtful manner and we all agreed that our sole message is to provide and to promote an environment that is focused on love and equality."

Plenty of other current and former stars from across sports weighed in Saturday, as did the National Basketball Players Association, which defended its members' "free speech rights" against those seeking to "stifle" them.

Trump also bemoaned what he called a decline in violence in football, noting that it's "not the same game" because players are now either penalized or thrown out of games for aggressive tackles.

"No man or woman should ever have to choose a job that forces them to surrender their rights," said DeMaurice Smith, the NFL Players Association executive director. "No worker nor any athlete, professional or not, should be forced to become less than human when it comes to protecting their basic health and safety."

Trump has met with some championship teams already in his first year in office.

Clemson visited the White House this year after winning the College Football Playoff, some members of

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the New England Patriots went after the Super Bowl victory and the Chicago Cubs went to the Oval Office in June to commemorate their World Series title. The Cubs also had the larger and more traditional visit with President Barack Obama in January, four days before the Trump inauguration.

North Carolina, the reigning NCAA men's basketball champion, said Saturday it will not visit the White House this season. The Tar Heels cited scheduling conflicts.

Warriors forward Draymond Green said the good news was that Golden State won't have to talk about going to the White House again — unless they win another title during the Trump presidency.

"Michelle Obama said it best," Green said. "She said it best. They go low. We go high. He beat us to the punch. Happy the game is over."

Reynolds reported from Miami. AP Sports Writers Janie McCauley and John Wawrow and AP writer Corey Williams in Detroit contributed to this story.

EPA removes waste at Texas toxic sites, won't say from where

By MICHAEL BIESECKER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Environmental Protection Agency says it has recovered 517 containers of "unidentified, potentially hazardous material" from highly contaminated toxic waste sites in Texas that flooded last month during Hurricane Harvey.

The agency has not provided details about which Superfund sites the material came from, why the contaminants at issue have not been identified and whether there's a threat to human health.

The one-sentence disclosure about the 517 containers was made Friday night deep within a media release from the Federal Emergency Management Agency summarizing the government's response to the devastating storm.

At least a dozen Superfund sites in and around Houston were flooded in the days after Harvey's record-shattering rains stopped. Associated Press journalists surveyed seven of the flooded sites by boat, vehicle and on foot. The EPA said at the time that its personnel had been unable to reach the sites, though they surveyed the locations using aerial photos.

The Associated Press reported Monday that a government hotline also received calls about three spills at the U.S. Oil Recovery Superfund site, a former petroleum waste processing plant outside Houston contaminated with a dangerous brew of cancer-causing chemicals. Records obtained by the AP showed workers at the site reported spills of unknown materials in unknown amounts.

Local pollution control officials photographed three large tanks used to store potentially hazardous waste completely underwater on Aug. 29. The EPA later said there was no evidence that nearby Vince Bayou had been impacted.

PRP Group, the company formed to clean up the U.S. Oil Recovery site, said it does not know how much material leaked from the tanks, soaking into the soil or flowing into the bayou. As part of the post-storm cleanup, workers have vacuumed up 63 truckloads of potentially contaminated storm water, totaling about 315,000 gallons.

It was not immediately clear whether those truckloads accounted for any of the 517 containers cited in the FEMA media release on Friday. The EPA has not responded to questions from AP about activities at U.S. Oil Recovery for more than a week.

About a dozen miles east, the San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund site is on and around a low-lying island that was the site of a paper mill in the 1960s, leaving behind dangerous levels of dioxins and other long-lasting toxins linked to birth defects and cancer. The site was completely covered with floodwaters when the AP surveyed it on Sept. 1.

To prevent contaminated soil and sediments from being washed down river, about 16 acres of the site was covered in 2011 with an "armored cap" of fabric and rock. The cap was reportedly designed to last for up to 100 years, but it has required extensive repairs on at least six occasions in recent years, with large sections becoming displaced or having been washed away.

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The EPA has not responded to repeated inquiries over the past two weeks about whether its assessment has determined whether the cap was similarly damaged during Harvey.

The companies responsible for cleaning up the site, Waste Management Inc. and International Paper, have said there were "a small number of areas where the current layer of armored cap is thinner than required."

"There was no evidence of a release from any of these areas," the companies said, adding that sediments there were sampled last week.

The EPA has not yet released those test results to the public.

Follow Associated Press environmental writer Michael Biesecker at <http://twitter.com/mbieseck>

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

Aid begins to flow to hurricane-hit Puerto Rico **By CHRISTOPHER GILLETTE and DANICA COTO, Associated Press**

GUAJATACA, Puerto Rico (AP) — Large amounts of federal aid began moving into Puerto Rico on Saturday, welcomed by local officials who praised the Trump administration's response but called for the emergency loosening of rules long blamed for condemning the U.S. territory to second-class status.

In northwest Puerto Rico, people began returning to their homes after a spillway eased pressure on a dam that cracked after more than a foot of rain fell in the wake of the hurricane.

The opening of the island's main port in the capital allowed 11 ships to bring in 1.6 million gallons of water, 23,000 cots, dozens of generators and food. Dozens more shipments are expected in upcoming days.

The federal aid effort is racing to stem a growing humanitarian crisis in towns left without fresh water, fuel, electricity or phone service. Officials with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, which is in charge of the relief effort, said they would take satellite phones to all of Puerto Rico's towns and cities, more than half of which were cut off following Maria's devastating crossing of Puerto Rico on Wednesday.

The island's infrastructure was in sorry shape long before Maria struck. A \$73 billion debt crisis has left agencies like the state power company broke. As a result the power company abandoned most basic maintenance in recent years, leaving the island subject to regular blackouts.

A federal control board overseeing Puerto Rico's finances authorized up to \$1 billion in local funds to be used for hurricane response, but Gov. Ricardo Rossello said he would ask for more.

"We're going to request waivers and other mechanisms so Puerto Rico can respond to this crisis," he said. "Puerto Rico will practically collect no taxes in the next month."

U.S. Rep. Nydia Velazquez of New York said she will request a one-year waiver from the Jones Act, a federal law blamed for driving up prices on Puerto Rico by requiring cargo shipments there to move only on U.S. vessels as a means of supporting the U.S. maritime industry.

"We will use all our resources," Velazquez said. "We need to make Puerto Rico whole again. These are American citizens."

A group of anxious mayors arrived in the capital to meet with Rossello to present a long list of items they urgently need. The north coastal town of Manati had run out of fuel and fresh water, Mayor Jose Sanchez Gonzalez said.

"Hysteria is starting to spread. The hospital is about to collapse. It's at capacity," he said, crying. "We need someone to help us immediately."

The death toll from Maria in Puerto Rico was at least 10, including two police officers who drowned in floodwaters in the western town of Aguada. That number was expected to climb as officials from remote towns continued to check in with officials in San Juan.

Authorities in the town of Vega Alta on the north coast said they had been unable to reach an entire neighborhood called Fatima, and were particularly worried about residents of a nursing home.

"I need to get there today," Mayor Oscar Santiago told The Associated Press. "Not tomorrow, today."

Rossello said Maria would clearly cost more than the last major storm to wallop the island, Hurricane

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George in September 1998. "This is without a doubt the biggest catastrophe in modern history for Puerto Rico," he said.

Rossello and other officials praised the federal government for planning its response in detail before the storm hit, a contrast with what Puerto Rico has long seen as the neglect of 3.4 million Americans living in a territory without a vote in Congress or the electoral college.

"This is the first time we get this type of federal coordination," said Resident Commission Jenniffer Gonzalez, Puerto Rico's non-voting representative in Washington.

A dam upstream of the towns of Quebradillas and Isabelita in northwest Puerto Rico was cracked but had not burst by Saturday night as water continued to pour out of rain-swollen Lake Guajataca. Federal officials said Friday that 70,000 people, the number who live in the surrounding area, would have to be evacuated. But Javier Jimenez, mayor of the nearby town of San Sebastian, said he believed the number was far smaller.

Secretary of Public Affairs Ramon Rosario said about 300 families were in harm's way.

The governor said there is "significant damage" to the dam and authorities believe it could give way at any moment. "We don't know how long it's going to hold. The integrity of the structure has been compromised in a significant way," Rossello said.

Some residents nonetheless returned to their homes Saturday as the water levels in the reservoir began to sink.

"There were a lot of people worried and crying, but that's natural, because the reservoir was about to break through," said Maria Nieves, 43. "They couldn't open the spillway until later in the night."

The 345-yard (316-meter) dam, which was built around 1928, holds back a man-made lake covering about 2 square miles (5 square kilometers). More than 15 inches (nearly 40 centimeters) of rain from Maria fell on the surrounding mountains.

Officials said 1,360 of the island's 1,600 cellphone towers were downed, and 85 percent of above-ground and underground phone and internet cables were knocked out. With roads blocked and phones dead, officials said, the situation may worsen.

At least 31 lives in all have been lost around the Caribbean due to Maria, including at least 15 on hard-hit Dominica. Haiti reported three deaths; Guadeloupe, two; and the Dominican Republic, one.

Across Puerto Rico, more than 15,000 people are in shelters, including some 2,000 rescued from the north coastal town of Toa Baja. Many Puerto Ricans planned to head to the mainland to temporarily escape the devastation.

Coto reported from San Juan.

Trump trying to turn around GOP holdouts on health bill

By CATHERINE LUCEY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Unwilling to concede defeat on a bedrock GOP promise, President Donald Trump on Saturday tried to sway two Republican holdouts on the party's last-ditch health care hope while clawing at his nemesis who again has brought the "Obamacare" repeal-and-replace effort to the brink of failure.

Trump appealed to Sen. Lisa Murkowski, a possible "no" vote, to swing around for the sake of Alaskans up in arms over high insurance costs, and suggested that Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul might reverse his stated opposition "for the good of the Party!"

Arizona Sen. John McCain, whose announcement Friday that he would not vote for the proposal seemingly scuttled efforts to revive the repeal, came under renewed criticism from the White House. It was the second time in three months that McCain, at 81 in the twilight of a remarkable career and battling brain cancer, had emerged as the destroyer of his party's signature and yearslong pledge to voters on health care.

"He campaigned on Repeal & Replace. Let Arizona down!" Trump tweeted. He jabbed at the senator with another tweet later in the day: "Democrats are laughingly saying that McCain had a 'moment of courage.' Tell that to the people of Arizona who were deceived. 116% increase!"

The effort to rally support for the bill took another hit Saturday when the nation's doctors, hospitals

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and health insurance plans unified in opposition to it. In a joint statement, major groups such as the American Medical Association, the American Hospital Association, America's Health Insurance Plans and the BlueCross BlueShield Association called on the Senate to reject the bill and said, "Health care is too important to get wrong."

With Senate Democrats unanimously opposed, two is the exact number of GOP votes that Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., can afford to lose. McCain and Paul are in the "no" column, Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, is leaning against the bill and Murkowski is also a possible "no."

But Trump isn't letting go, as seen by his series of tweets while he spends the weekend at his New Jersey golf club.

Aiming at Murkowski, Trump cited increases in premiums and other costs in Alaska under the Affordable Care Act. "Deductibles high, people angry! Lisa M comes through," he wrote.

Trump, without offering support for his assertion about former presidential rival Paul, said: "I know Rand Paul and I think he may find a way to get there for the good of the Party!"

But there was no doubt where Trump stood on McCain.

"John McCain never had any intention of voting for this Bill," Trump said. The measure was co-written by South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham, McCain's closest Senate ally, and Sen. Bill Cassidy, R-La.

"McCain let his best friend L.G. down!" Trump said, adding that the health bill was "great for Arizona."

McCain, in explaining that he could not "in good conscience" vote for the legislation, said both parties "could do better working together" but hadn't "really tried." He also he could not support the measure "without knowing how much it will cost, how it will affect insurance premiums, and how many people will be helped or hurt by it."

His opposition all but ensured a major setback for Trump and McConnell, and appeared likely to deepen rifts between congressional Republicans and a president who has begun making deals with Democrats out of frustration with his own party's failure to turn proposals into laws.

During the election campaign Trump had pledged to quickly kill the Affordable Care Act — "It will be easy," he contended — and he has publicly chided McConnell for not winning passage before now.

Up until McCain's announcement, McConnell allies were optimistic McCain's relationship with Graham might make the difference. GOP leaders hoped to bring the legislation to the full Senate this coming week. They face a Sept. 30 deadline, at which point special rules that prevent a Democratic filibuster will expire.

Democrats hailed McCain's announcement and pledged to commit to the bipartisan process he sought. GOP Sen. Lamar Alexander of Tennessee and Democratic Sen. Patty Murray of Washington have been working on a package of limited legislative fixes to the health law's marketplaces.

"John McCain shows the same courage in Congress that he showed when he was a naval aviator," said Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y. "I have assured Sen. McCain that as soon as repeal is off the table, we Democrats are intent on resuming the bipartisan process."

Trump charged that Schumer "sold John McCain a bill of goods. Sad."

The Graham-Cassidy bill would repeal major pillars of the health law and replace them with block grants to states to design their own programs.

"Large Block Grants to States is a good thing to do. Better control & management," Trump tweeted.

But major medical groups said millions of people would lose insurance coverage and protections. A bipartisan group of governors announced their opposition.

The House passed its own repeal bill back in May, prompting Trump to convene a Rose Garden celebration, which soon began to look premature.

After the Senate failed in several attempts in July, the legislation looked dead. But Cassidy kept at it with his state-focused approach, and the effort caught new life in recent weeks as the deadline neared. Trump pushed hard, hungry for a win.

The bill would get rid of unpopular mandates for people to carry insurance or face penalties. It would repeal the financing for Obama's health insurance expansion and create a big pot of money states could tap to set up their own programs, with less federal oversight. It would limit spending for Medicaid, the federal-state program that now covers more than 70 million low-income people. Insurance rules that pro-

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tect people with pre-existing conditions could be loosened through state waivers.

Over time, the legislation would significantly reduce federal health care dollars now flowing to the states. But McConnell had little margin for error in a Senate split 52-48 between Republicans and Democrats, and could lose only two votes, counting on Pence to break the tie.

Associated Press writers Erica Werner, Alan Fram and Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar in Washington contributed to this report.

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Sunday, Sept. 24, the 267th day of 2017. There are 98 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On September 24, 1717, English author Horace Walpole, 4th Earl of Orford, was born in London.

On this date:

In 1789, President George Washington signed a Judiciary Act establishing America's federal court system and creating the post of attorney general.

In 1869, thousands of businessmen were ruined in a Wall Street panic known as "Black Friday" after financiers Jay Gould and James Fisk attempted to corner the gold market.

In 1890, the president of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Wilford Woodruff, wrote a manifesto renouncing the practice of plural marriage, or polygamy.

In 1929, Lt. James H. Doolittle guided a Consolidated NY-2 Biplane over Mitchel Field in New York in the first all-instrument flight.

In 1934, Babe Ruth made his farewell appearance as a player with the New York Yankees in a game against the Boston Red Sox. (The Sox won, 5-0.)

In 1948, Mildred Gillars, accused of being Nazi wartime radio propagandist "Axis Sally," pleaded not guilty in Washington D.C. to charges of treason. (Gillars, later convicted, ended up serving 12 years in prison.)

In 1955, President Dwight D. Eisenhower suffered a heart attack while on vacation in Denver.

In 1957, the Los Angeles-bound Brooklyn Dodgers played their last game at Ebbets Field, defeating the Pittsburgh Pirates 2-0.

In 1960, the USS Enterprise, the first nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, was launched at Newport News, Virginia. "The Howdy Doody Show" ended a nearly 13-year run with its final telecast on NBC.

In 1976, former hostage Patricia Hearst was sentenced to seven years in prison for her part in a 1974 bank robbery in San Francisco carried out by the Symbionese Liberation Army. (Hearst was released after 22 months after receiving clemency from President Jimmy Carter.)

In 1988, Canadian sprinter Ben Johnson won the men's 100-meter dash at the Seoul (sohl) Summer Olympics — but he was disqualified three days later for using anabolic steroids. Members of the eastern Massachusetts Episcopal diocese elected Barbara C. Harris the first female bishop in the church's history.

In 1996, the United States and 70 other countries became the first to sign a treaty at the United Nations to end all testing and development of nuclear weapons. (The Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty has yet to enter into force because of the refusal so far of eight nations — including the United States — to ratify it.)

Ten years ago: Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad (ah-muh-DEE'-neh-zahhd) questioned the official version of the 9/11 attacks and defended the right to cast doubt on the Holocaust in a tense appearance at Columbia University in New York. United Auto Workers walked off the job at General Motors plants in the first nationwide strike during auto contract negotiations since 1976; a tentative pact ended the walkout two days later. The situation comedy "The Big Bang Theory" premiered on CBS.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama told the ABC talk show "The View" there was "no doubt" that the assault of the U.S. Consulate in Benghazi, Libya, that killed four Americans, including the U.S. ambassador,

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"wasn't just a mob action" but a sign of extremism in nations lacking stability. Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney accused Obama of minimizing the Benghazi attack as a mere "bump in the road."

One year ago: The new Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture opened its doors in Washington, D.C. Police arrested a suspect in a shooting at the Cascade Mall in Burlington, Washington, a day earlier that left five people dead. Musician Buckwheat Zydeco, 68, died in Lafayette, Louisiana.

Today's Birthdays: Rhythm-and-blues singer Sonny Turner (The Platters) is 78. Singer Barbara Allbut Brown (The Angels) is 77. Singer Phyllis "Jiggs" Allbut Sirico (The Angels) is 75. Singer Gerry Marsden (Gerry and the Pacemakers) is 75. News anchor Lou Dobbs is 72. Pro and College Football Hall of Famer Joe Greene is 71. Actor Gordon Clapp is 69. Actress Harriet Walter is 67. Songwriter Holly Knight is 61. Former U.S. Rep. Joseph Kennedy II, D-Mass., is 65. Actor Kevin Sorbo is 59. Christian/jazz singer Cedric Dent is 55. Actress-writer Nia Vardalos is 55. Rock musician Shawn Crahan (AKA Clown) (Slipknot) is 48. Country musician Marty Mitchell is 48. Actress Megan Ward is 48. Singer-musician Marty Cintron (No Mercy) is 46. Contemporary Christian musician Juan DeVevo (Casting Crowns) is 42. Actor Ian Bohen is 41. Actor Justin Bruening is 38. Olympic gold medal gymnast Paul Hamm (hahm) is 35. Actor Erik Stocklin is 35. Actor Kyle Sullivan is 29. Actor Ben Platt is 24.

Thought for Today: "Men are often capable of greater things than they perform. They are sent into the world with bills of credit, and seldom draw to their full extent." — Horace Walpole (1717-1797).