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South Dakota Reports First Flu Detection Of Season

PIERRE, S.D. – South Dakota is reporting its first influenza detection of the 2017-2018 season, a Lawrence County resident in the 20-29 age group confirmed with influenza A.

"A yearly flu shot is the best way to protect yourself and those around you from influenza and now is the time to get vaccinated," said Colleen Winter, family and community health director for the department.

Yearly flu vaccination is recommended for everyone over the age of 6 months, but some groups are at higher risk – pregnant women, people over 50 years and people with chronic medical conditions. Health care workers and household contacts of high risk populations, especially those with young infants in the household, should also be vaccinated.

Last flu season, 53.9 percent of South Dakotans got a flu vaccine, the second highest vaccination rate in the nation. South Dakota has had the nation's highest flu vaccination rate for five of the last seven seasons.

In addition to annual vaccination, people can help prevent flu by washing hands often with soap and water, covering coughs and sneezes and staying home when sick. Learn more about influenza and how to prevent it at <http://flu.sd.gov>.

Preventing and controlling infectious disease is one objective of the Department of Health's 2015-2020 strategic plan, <http://doh.sd.gov/strategicplan>.

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

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

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Removal, Grinding, Chipping, Trimming

605-725-WOOD

Mason Dinger: 605-216-6098

Trevor Zeck: 605-216-8910



**DAKOTA TREE
COMPANY**

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“A kind gesture can reach a wound that only compassion can heal.”

-Steve Maraboli

Chicken Soup
for the Soul

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All auto owners!

Save \$2-\$4 /tank

& grow your local economy
by choosing low carbon

Super Premium E30's

94 octane, more power,
same mileage, fewer
carbon deposits, lower
maintenance costs,
slashed benzene & related
genotoxic, carcinogenic
tailpipe emissions;

*see sdfu.org's E30 tab for
info, E30 prices\locations.

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

Groton Area Help Wanted

The Groton Area School District is seeking qualified applicants for a part-time Assistant Business Manager. Job description and application materials can be found under the employment tab at www.grotonarea.com. Questions should be directed to Joe Schwan, Superintendent at 605-397-2351.

Help Wanted

We are Hiring Nurses – RN or LPN,
Full or Part Time. Cooks/Dietary Aid.

NEW WAGE PACKAGE!!!

Contact Brynn Pickrel or Nellie Peterson at 605-397-2365 or apply in person.

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



GROTON

CARE & REHABILITATION CENTER

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

0913.1005

Social Security Announces 2.0 Percent Benefit Increase for 2018

Monthly Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits for more than 66 million Americans will increase 2.0 percent in 2018, the Social Security Administration announced today.

The 2.0 percent cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) will begin with benefits payable to more than 61 million Social Security beneficiaries in January 2018. Increased payments to more than 8 million SSI beneficiaries will begin on December 29, 2017. (Note: some people receive both Social Security and SSI benefits) The Social Security Act ties the annual COLA to the increase in the Consumer Price Index as determined by the Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Some other adjustments that take effect in January of each year are based on the increase in average wages. Based on that increase, the maximum amount of earnings subject to the Social Security tax (taxable maximum) will increase to \$128,700 from \$127,200. Of the estimated 175 million workers who will pay Social Security taxes in 2018, about 12 million will pay more because of the increase in the taxable maximum.

Information about Medicare changes for 2018, when announced, will be available at www.medicare.gov.

The Social Security Act provides for how the COLA is calculated. To read more, please visit www.socialsecurity.gov/cola.

2018 SOCIAL SECURITY CHANGES

Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA):

Based on the increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI-W) from the third quarter of 2016 through the third quarter of 2017, Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) beneficiaries will receive a 2.0 percent COLA for 2018. Other important 2018 Social Security information is as follows:

Tax Rate	2017	2018
Employee	7.65%	7.65%
Self-Employed	15.30%	15.30%

NOTE: The 7.65% tax rate is the combined rate for Social Security and Medicare. The Social Security portion (OASDI) is 6.20% on earnings up to the applicable taxable maximum amount (see below). The Medicare portion (HI) is 1.45% on all earnings. Also, as of January 2013, individuals with earned income of more than \$200,000 (\$250,000 for married couples filing jointly) pay an additional 0.9 percent in Medicare taxes. The tax rates shown above do not include the 0.9 percent.

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	2017	2018
Maximum Taxable Earnings		
Social Security (OASDI only)	\$127,200	\$128,700
Medicare (HI only)	No Limit	
Quarter of Coverage		
	\$1,300	\$1,320
Retirement Earnings Test Exempt Amounts		
Under full retirement age	\$16,920/yr. (\$1,410/mo.)	\$17,040/yr. (\$1,420/mo.)
NOTE: One dollar in benefits will be withheld for every \$2 in earnings above the limit.		
The year an individual reaches full retirement age	\$44,880/yr. (\$3,740/mo.)	\$45,360/yr. (\$3,780/mo.)
NOTE: Applies only to earnings for months prior to attaining full retirement age. One dollar in benefits will be withheld for every \$3 in earnings above the limit.		
Beginning the month an individual attains full retirement age.	None	

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	2017	2018
Social Security Disability Thresholds		
Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA)		
Non-Blind	\$1,170/mo.	\$1,180/mo.
Blind	\$1,950/mo.	\$1,970/mo.
Trial Work Period (TWP)	\$ 840/mo.	\$ 850/mo.
Maximum Social Security Benefit: Worker Retiring at Full Retirement Age		
	\$2,687/mo.	\$2,788/mo.
SSI Federal Payment Standard		
Individual	\$ <u>735</u> /mo.	\$ <u>750</u> /mo.
Couple	\$1,103/mo.	\$1,125/mo.
SSI Resource Limits		
Individual	\$2,000	\$2,000
Couple	\$3,000	\$3,000
SSI Student Exclusion		
Monthly limit	\$1,790	\$1,820
Annual limit	\$7,200	\$7,350
Estimated Average Monthly Social Security Benefits Payable in January 2018		
	Before 2.0% COLA	After 2.0% COLA
All Retired Workers	\$1,377	\$1,404
Aged Couple, Both Receiving Benefits	\$2,294	\$2,340
Widowed Mother and Two Children	\$2,717	\$2,771
Aged Widow(er) Alone	\$1,310	\$1,336
Disabled Worker, Spouse and One or More Children	\$2,011	\$2,051
All Disabled Workers	\$1,173	\$1,197

Marshall County, South Dakota PRIVATE LAND SALE - 155 +/- ACRES

Legal Description: The Northeast Quarter (NE ¼) of Section Nine (9), Township One Hundred Twenty-six (126), Range Fifty-nine (59), West of the 5th P.M., except five acres of said land in the northeast corner of said land which is used for cemetery purposes, Marshall County, South Dakota.

155 acres with the total acres to be determined by survey or the acres used by Farm Service Agency in Marshall County, South Dakota.

SELLERS: Estate of Nancy L. Wright
Clark Wright & Elizabeth LaRocque Co- Personal Representatives

ATTORNEY FOR SELLERS: Rick A. Ribstein – Ribstein & Hogan Law Firm, 621 6th Street, Brookings, SD 57006. Phone: (605) 692-1818

REVISED SALE/AUCTION FORMAT: Preliminary written bids will be accepted by Rick A. Ribstein, Attorney for Sellers, until 5:00 o'clock p.m. on Friday, October 20, 2017. Prospective purchasers will be notified by mail that they are invited to a private auction to be held in Amherst, South Dakota, on Friday, November 3, 2017. Sellers reserve the right to reject any or all bids.

PRELIMINARY WRITTEN BID FORMAT: Preliminary written bids may be submitted in the form of a letter mailed or delivered to Seller's Attorney at the address printed above. Preliminary bid letters should include bidder's name and mailing address, the preliminary bid amount, and should be accompanied by a check for a down payment equal to 5% of the preliminary bid amount. Down payment checks should be payable to Ribstein & Hogan Trust Account.

TERMS: 5% down with preliminary written bid. A 10% additional nonrefundable earnest money payment required on the day of sale and balance at closing. Possession will be subject to existing tenant's rights under their current lease and their rights to harvest the 2017 crops, with Fall tillage privileges for a new buyer(s) to be permitted with approval of the current tenants. Cost of owner's policy of title insurance and closing fees split 50/50. Sellers will pay the 2016 taxes due in 2017, and all prior taxes. 2017 taxes will be prorated until the day of closing.

INQUIRIES: Informal packages available upon request from Seller's Attorney. Questions about the real estate or auction format should be directed to Seller's Attorney by mail, or by calling (605) 692-1818. Ask for Rick A. Ribstein, Attorney or Sheila Maffett, Legal Secretary.

Status Reviews of South Dakota's Threatened and Endangered Species Available for Comment

Pierre, S.D. – The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) is conducting a review of state endangered and threatened species and is asking the public to provide comment on the draft status reviews for 22 species now through Dec. 8, 2017.

This review process provides a concise summary of the current status for each state listed threatened or endangered species.

Where sufficient information existed for the recovery of species, draft criteria for downlisting (changing status from endangered to threatened) and/or delisting (removing a threatened or endangered species from the state list) are described. If such information was not available, the review describes additional monitoring or research needs.

For species also listed as federal threatened or federal endangered under the Endangered Species Act, separate state recovery goals were not drafted. For those, GFP will continue cooperating with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to meet identified recovery goals.

The status reviews are available online: <http://gfp.sd.gov/wildlife/threatened-endangered/default.aspx>. To provide written feedback on these reviews, please email StatusReviews@state.sd.us or mail comments to 523 E. Capitol Ave., Pierre, SD 57501.

Walleyes Stocked in the Black Hills

PIERRE, S.D. – For the first time, the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) recently stocked walleyes in two Black Hills reservoirs.

GFP fisheries staff stocked 14,000 fingerlings in Sheridan Reservoir and 9,500 fingerlings in Stockade Reservoir. These young walleyes averaged five inches in length and came from natural rearing ponds in the northeast part of the state.

"Adding walleye into two Black Hills reservoirs provides increased angling opportunity within the Black Hills Fish Management Area without having negative impacts on the currently established fisheries," said GFP regional fisheries supervisor, Jake Davis. "This effort could not have been done without cooperative partnerships with anglers, stakeholders and our staff working to accomplish a key objective as part of the Black Hills Reservoirs Management Plan."



Protecting Ourselves from Cyber Threats

Cyberattacks are becoming more and more common, as the internet has become such an integral part of our daily lives. We are putting more of our personal information online than ever before, whether it's when we do our online banking, make a purchase, pay bills or something as simple as sharing photos on social media. It is important that we take steps to protect ourselves from cyberattacks.

The month of October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month, and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security is using this time to encourage Americans to be mindful of the risks that can happen when we're not safe online. When our personal information is compromised, it can result in drained bank accounts, stolen identities, fraudulent credit card charges and more.

There are a few tips we can use to protect ourselves from a costly and worrisome cyberattack. First, it's important to use strong passwords and avoid using the same password for multiple websites and online accounts. Make sure to lock your smartphone and computer when you're not using them. If you receive a suspicious email, do not open any links or attachments that it may contain and delete the message immediately. You should also be cautious if you get a phone call or email from someone claiming to be a friend, family member or IRS representative asking for you to wire them money. Lastly, avoid accessing online banking accounts or other sensitive accounts on public Wi-Fi or from a public computer, as hackers can more easily access your information when you're on a public network that is not secure.

While we should always focus on protecting our personal information online, it is also important for the federal government to take steps to avoid cyberattacks. As chairman of the Cybersecurity Subcommittee of the Senate Armed Services Committee, one of my goals has been to increase and improve the defensive and offensive cyber capabilities of the Defense Department. However, our cyber concerns extend beyond our armed forces. For example, as we saw during the 2016 election, our adversaries will not shy away from using cyberattacks and disinformation campaigns to try to influence our public discourse or impact our elections.

This summer, I had the opportunity to attend the grand opening of the new Beacom Institute of Technology at Dakota State University (DSU) in Madison, where the university announced the construction of a Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility (SCIF) on campus. DSU is one of the nation's leaders in cybersecurity education, and the SCIF will bring additional opportunities for South Dakota students looking at a career in cybersecurity. Once they graduate, students will be able to work directly on national security and cybersecurity issues here at home.

Cybersecurity is an issue that all Americans need to be concerned with, as we continue to put more of our personal information on the internet. During Cybersecurity Awareness Month, I encourage all South Dakotans to review their online security measures and make adjustments if necessary to stay safe online.

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Grit

Grit. It's that unshakable courage; that resolve to succeed; that hardiness which generations of South Dakotans have represented. It's a trait we wear as a badge of honor in this state – a trait personified most intensely by the brave South Dakotans who serve in our military.

Grit is also what defined the USS South Dakota during World War II. This ship was a leader among leaders; the war's most decorated battleship. During the Battle of Santa Cruz Island alone, it shot down 30 enemy aircraft and operationally disabled two enemy aircraft carriers to defend American assets. It would later engage in nine shore bombardments and shoot down 34 more enemy aircraft. The battleship, which was critical to America's victory in the Pacific, was decommissioned in January 1947, although its storied reputation lives on today.

In early 2012, I joined Senator John Thune and then-Senator Tim Johnson in formally petitioning the U.S. Navy to name the next attack submarine the USS South Dakota, recognizing the accomplishments of that World War II battleship as well as the grit and determination of South Dakota veterans. Our request was granted, and this month, I'm honored to help celebrate the new submarine's christening.

While I was unable to make it to the official event in Connecticut, I joined the celebration in Sioux Falls days before. There, we welcomed South Dakota veterans who had carried an American flag across the state, placing it in the saddlebag of a new Harley Davidson bike, custom-painted to honor the USS South Dakota. It was a powerful moment; one that reminded everyone there of the sacrifices made to defend the stars and stripes. I was proud to stand that day, with hand over heart, in honor of patriots and the American flag.

The christening of the USS South Dakota turns the page to another chapter in our state's historic tradition of service. With a mission involving everything from conducting anti-submarine warfare to intelligence gathering, the boat's been built to dominate the world's coastal and deep waters.

More specifically, the USS South Dakota can hold an arsenal of Tomahawk missiles, each capable of hitting on-shore targets up to 1,240 miles away (more than three times the distance from Rapid City to Sioux Falls). And while the submarine is 10 feet longer than a football field, nearly as tall as a 12-story building, and equivalent in weight to 65 blue whales, it will move through the water with an unprecedented degree of stealth. It's a silent protector to say the least, sophisticated enough to maintain America's undersea supremacy throughout the 21st Century.

As the USS South Dakota submarine prepares to officially join America's naval fleet in 2018, I ask that you join me in praying for its crew, their safety, and the missions they're set to complete. I hope they will find inspiration in the USS South Dakota's legacy as well as the grit, the unshakable courage, and the resolve to succeed that is found in South Dakota's veterans.

Gov. Daugaard To Speak At USS South Dakota Christening

PIERRE, S.D. – Gov. Dennis Daugaard will join Lt. Gov. Matt Michels and U.S. Sen. Mike Rounds in Groton, Connecticut, tomorrow morning to serve as the keynote speaker at the christening ceremony for the USS South Dakota SSN 790.

“South Dakotans can be proud that this Virginia-class submarine bears our state’s name,” Gov. Daugaard said. “The boat contains the Navy’s latest technology and will be lighter and faster than the previous class of submarines.”

At the conclusion of the ceremony, the boat’s sponsor, Deanie Dempsey, will break a bottle of Belle Joli sparkling wine on the submarine’s bow.

The christening is the second of three milestones for the USS South Dakota. The keel laying ceremony was held April 4, 2016, to recognize the beginning of construction and a commissioning ceremony to officially admit the USS South Dakota to the Navy is expected in 2018.

In 2016, Gov. Daugaard signed legislation appropriating \$100,000 to the South Dakota Department of Military to support the USS South Dakota Commissioning Committee’s activities. The Committee has since raised additional funds from the private sector.

This boat is the third U.S. Navy vessel to be named after South Dakota, and is the first underwater vessel to bear the state’s name. The first USS South Dakota, a Pennsylvania-class armored cruiser, was christened in 1904. The ship was attached to the Pacific Fleet during the Mexican Civil War and to the Atlantic Fleet during World War I. It was renamed the USS Huron in 1920 and was decommissioned in 1927.

The second USS South Dakota was the first South Dakota-class battleship and was christened in 1941. This ship, known as “Old Incredible,” had two tours in the Pacific and one in the Atlantic during World War II. The ship’s 13 battle stars were matched only by the USS Washington. This USS South Dakota was decommissioned in 1947, and a memorial to the ship in Sioux Falls includes an outline of the ship’s main deck.

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Keeping Our Promise To Taxpayers And Teachers

Two years ago, South Dakotans joined together to solve a longstanding problem. Our state's average salaries for teachers were lowest in the nation. Even after adjusting for cost of living differences, teachers made significantly more in our neighboring states. I heard from many educators that the problem had reached its breaking point. As many older teachers retired, schools were struggling to fill vacant positions.

The Blue Ribbon Task Force met throughout 2015, and after seeking input from thousands of South Dakotans, it recommended a number of solutions. I proposed several legislative changes based on that report, and a bipartisan coalition in the State Legislature passed versions of those proposals with two-thirds votes. We raised the state sales tax to put more money into education, changed the funding formula to prioritize teacher pay and put strict requirements in place for use of the new money.

Those salary increases took effect for the 2016-17 school year, and the state recently received the final results from that first year. We made great progress. In one year, salaries increased by an average of 8.8 percent. The Blue Ribbon legislation set a target average salary of \$48,500, and in one year we moved more than halfway toward that goal.

Raises varied in individual school districts, but I was pleased to see that the largest increases happened in some of our smallest districts. Several districts, including Wall, Gayville-Volin and Mobridge-Pollock had increases of more than 20 percent, and Leola had an increase of nearly 30 percent.

The State Legislature wanted assurance that the new money would be spent as intended – for higher teacher salaries – so the legislation included strict accountability measures. A school district that failed to direct at least 85 percent of those funds to teacher salaries could forfeit 50 percent of the new money it received – a very serious penalty. At the same time, however, the Legislature recognized that schools might fall short due to unforeseen circumstances, and created a waiver process by which a school district can explain its unique situation.

Thirty-six school districts failed to meet at least one aspect of the accountability requirements. They tend to be smaller districts. Although approximately one-quarter of districts missed a requirement, these districts account for less than 11 percent of the teacher salaries paid.

Most of these districts missed the target by a very small margin. Edgemont, for example, was short of the required spending on teacher salaries by 0.1 percent. Herreid missed the required average salary by \$109. In Pierre, the district was short by 0.2 percent because a teacher passed away during the school year, which meant the school district spent a little less on salaries than planned.

Examples like these will be considered by the School Finance Accountability Board and the Joint Appropriations Committee. If a school made a good faith effort to comply with the law, and has a corrective plan in place, I hope these bodies will consider a waiver. If, on the other hand, a school district knowingly took the teacher salary funding and spent it for another purpose, it is important that the problem is remedied. The Blue Ribbon legislation was passed with the understanding that the money would be used for teacher salaries, and we owe it to taxpayers to keep that promise.

John Thune
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



South Dakota's Unofficial October Holiday

For many South Dakotans, myself included, the third Saturday in October is always circled on the calendar. While most fall weekends are primetime for college football and Major League Baseball playoffs, those are all overshadowed, at least for me, by walking through a food plot, slough, or corn field and hearing a friend or family member yell, "rooster!" The South Dakota pheasant opener is more than an annual event. It's an unofficial holiday, and it's right around the corner.

For me, hunting has always been more about the experience than the number of birds I bring home. Sure, limiting out on ringnecks is great, but it's the memories I'm able to create along the way that matter the most. As long as I'm walking the fields with friends and family, an empty hunting vest never bothers me. I'm blessed that I'm still able to enjoy hunts with my siblings and my dad who is 97 years young. My sons-in-law have also taken up pheasant hunting, which is exciting for me to be able to pass this tradition on to the next generation.

We wouldn't have pheasants in South Dakota if it were not for the several hundred thousand acres of suitable habitat that allows them to survive and successfully reproduce in our sometimes harsh climate. We're fortunate to have landowners throughout the state who both love the thrill of the hunt and understand the importance of wildlife habitat and conservation. We couldn't have one without the other. While the land and opportunities exist in South Dakota, this year's drought and diminishing Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) footprint didn't do the pheasant population any favors. According to a state survey, the population is 45 percent smaller than it was last year.

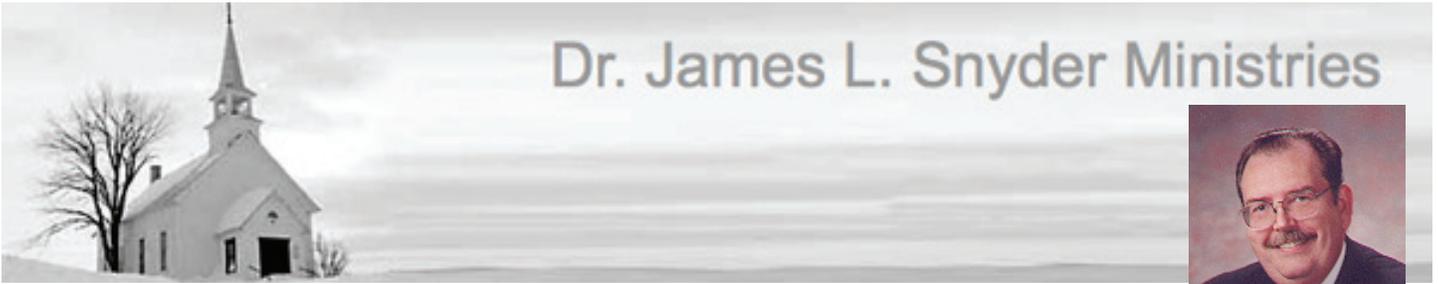
For a lot of hunters, when they hear CRP mentioned, they think of pheasants. The popular and well-respected conservation program provides incentives for landowners to set aside portions of their property that can serve as nesting and brood-rearing areas for pheasants. This year's low pheasant population and low commodity prices are great reasons to increase the number of available CRP acres. This is why I've introduced legislation that would boost the CRP acreage cap to 30 million acres in the next Farm Bill, which represents a 25 percent increase. I've introduced additional bills in Congress that would authorize a shorter-term (three-five years) conserving use program that would complement CRP, and expand the sodbuster initiative nationwide, which is something I first authored in the 2008 and 2014 farm bills.

Each year pheasant season brings people from around the world to South Dakota, and it has a significant residual effect on the state's economy. Pheasant hunters bring hundreds of millions of dollars in economic activity with them. They're staying in hotels, eating at restaurants and diners, and they're picking up supplies at sporting goods stores around the state. It's important that we look for ways to strengthen and preserve the state's pheasant population, which is what several of my farm bill proposals are aimed at achieving.

They don't call South Dakota the "pheasant capital of the world" for nothing, so as folks hop in their trucks, put on their blaze orange, and bring their dogs into the field, I wish everyone a safe, successful, and memorable hunt.

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Why Did I Get Up This Morning?

All day long, I've had this burning question in my mind. One of those questions you just cannot shake and as the day progressed, it loomed larger and larger until I had to address it. Personally, I would like to have addressed it, put a stamp on it and send it to Timbuktu. I just do not know the ZIP code.

It all began first thing in the morning. Some days try to trick you into thinking it's going to be a good day by starting the day off perfect. Such was not the case with this day.

The amazing thing about this day was it started bad and just got worse as the day wore on. Some days start out bad and then improve by noon. These days I do not mind. I figure the day is trying to play tricks with my mind. I would not mind if I only knew the rules or if my mind could win at least occasionally.

The day began with me oversleeping. It really was not my fault; the alarm clock did not go off. When I looked at my alarm clock, the numbers were blinking indicating sometime during the night the electricity went off. It is my personal opinion the electric company does this intentionally. The electric only has to flicker and all of the digital clocks go on blinking mode. This is a cruel trick perpetrated by our friendly electric company just to show us who is really boss.

When I checked the real time, I discovered I was late. Have you ever noticed when you oversleep it is the day you have an early-morning appointment? Why is it nobody ever oversleeps on his or her day off?

As quick, as I could, I got ready. While I was shaving, however, I nicked my face. It was one of those little nicks that just does not stop bleeding, no matter what you do. I had blood all over my face even dripping down onto my T-shirt.

I quickly dressed and scampered into the kitchen to grab a cup of hot coffee. In my grabbing, I managed to spill the hot coffee on my shirt. Now that I am running late, I have to stop what I am doing, run back to the bedroom and put on a new shirt. It was a good thing because not only did my shirt have coffee stains on it there was a nice splash of blood on it as well.

I grabbed the keys to the car and dashed out the front door. By now, I was only 30 minutes late and even so, I could make the appointment. When I started up the car, I heard that familiar dinging indicating I was low on gasoline.

There are times in your life when you must make a quick decision. I estimated by looking at the fuel gauge that I probably had enough gas to get to my appointment, but would have to get gas right after.

To stop and get gas at this time would cause me to be that much later. I can always get gas after my meeting.

Some educated guesses have never been to school or if they have, they sure did not pay attention.

While driving to my appointment, I was trying to think about the appointment and what I would do and what I would say and all that sort of thing. Even though I was running late, I could be at least well prepared for the meeting. As long as when I arrived at the meeting I was well prepared, all would be right.

Then I heard a sputter. It was a familiar sputter. As I looked at the fuel gauge, it was blinking "Empty." At the time, it seemed to be a rather sarcastic blinking. In between sputters, I thought I heard a giggle. Cars seem to know when you are late and, most importantly, how much gas is needed to get to your appointment. I think it has something to do with all of the electronic equipment installed in the car at the factory. If it takes three gallons to get to your appointment the car, somehow needs 3 ½ gallons.

Undaunted by this latest development I coasted the car off to the side of the road and parked it. Look-

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ing at my watch I figured, if I put a hurry to it, I could walk to the meeting. Of course, I would be late, but I had a good explanation for my tardiness. Everybody has experienced this sort of a day and so they would understand.

I walked as fast as I could, hoping with every step that I would make up some time.

When I arrived at my meeting, I discovered a bit of information that completely floored me.

"I'm Rev. Snyder and I'm here for a meeting." I said between panting.

"What meeting is that?" the secretary asked.

I explained about the meeting and that I was running just a little bit late.

"Oh, Rev. Snyder," she said with a smirk on her face, "that meeting has been postponed until tomorrow.

Walking back to my car a verse of Scripture danced in the back of my mind. "This is the day which the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it." (Psalms 118:24 KJV).

I rejoiced all the way back to my car. At least I wasn't late.

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Today in Weather History

October 15, 1880: A violent early season blizzard devastated Minnesota and the Dakotas. Winds gusted to 70 mph at Yankton, SD, and snow drifts 10 to 15 feet high were reported in northwest Iowa and southeast South Dakota. Canby Minnesota reported 20 feet high snow drifts from this storm. Saint Paul, MN reported a barometric pressure of 28.65 inches on the 16th. Piles of snow, which remained throughout the severe winter to follow, blocked railroads. The winter of 1880-81 is vividly portrayed in Laura Ingalls Wilder's Book: The Long Winter.

October 15, 1992: Snow fell throughout the day across the north central and northwest part of the state with 2 to 6 inches occurring. There was a separate report of 7 inches near Harding in northwestern South Dakota.

1608: Evangelista Torricelli, the Italian physicist, and mathematician who invented the barometer, was born on this date. In 1644, Evangelista Torricelli built the first barometer with mercury.

1880 - A violent early season blizzard raked Minnesota and the Dakotas. Winds gusted to 70 mph at Yankton SD, and snow drifts 10 to 15 feet high were reported in northwest Iowa and southeast South Dakota. Saint Paul MN reported a barometric pressure of 28.65 inches on the 16th. Railroads were blocked by drifts of snow which remained throughout the severe winter to follow. Gales did extensive damage to ship on the Great Lakes. (15th-16th) (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1954: By 11 pm on the 15th, Hurricane Hazel had reached and crossed the waters of Lake Ontario, still sporting sustained winds as high as 60 mph. Hazel took direct aim at the heart of Toronto as it roared past at 49 mph. Toronto saw heavy rainfall before Hurricane Hazel on the 14th. The previous storm, in combination with the hurricane, resulted in significant flooding.

1966 - Iowa experienced its worst late season tornado of record. In just one minute a twister tore through the town of Belmond leveling 75 percent of the businesses, and 100 homes, causing more than eleven million dollars damage. (The Weather Channel)

1984: The Monday Night Football game in Denver, CO was played in a raging blizzard. 15 inches of snow fell with up to 34 inches reported in the nearby mountains. The Air Force Academy canceled classes for the first time in its' recorded history.

1987 - Unseasonably cold weather continued in the eastern U.S., with thirteen cities reporting record low temperatures for the date. The low of 34 degrees at Montgomery AL was their coldest reading of record for so early in the season. Lows of 32 degrees at Harrisburg PA and 34 degrees at Parkersburg WV marked their third straight morning of record cold. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - The cold high pressure system responsible for the record low temperatures in the eastern U.S. began to move out to sea, giving way to a trend toward "Indian Summer". Thunderstorms developing ahead of a cold front produced golf ball size hail at Altamont KS and hail two inches in diameter at Yates City IL. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

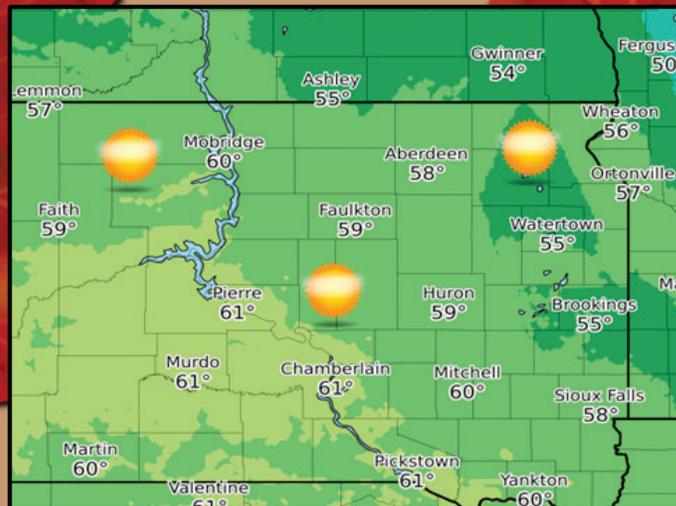
1989 - Hurricane Jerry made landfall at Galveston, TX, at 6 30 PM (CDT). Winds at the Galveston Airport reached 75 mph, with gusts to 100 mph. Tides along the island were six to eight feet, and rainfall totals ranged up to slightly more than six inches north of Beaumont. Three persons were killed when their vehicle was blown off the Galveston seawall into the pounding surf. Total damage along the Upper Texas Coast was estimated at fifteen million dollars. Thunderstorms produced severe weather in Lower Michigan during the late morning. Two persons were injured when a tree fell on their camper at the Traverse City State park. While strong northerly winds ushered much colder air into the central U.S., unseasonably warm weather continued in the south central and eastern U.S. The afternoon high of 82 degrees at Bluefield WV was a record for October. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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Today	Tonight	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday	Tuesday Night	Wednesday
						
Sunny	Clear	Sunny	Clear	Sunny	Mostly Clear	Sunny
High: 57 °F	Low: 28 °F	High: 69 °F	Low: 36 °F	High: 73 °F	Low: 43 °F	High: 69 °F

Conditions Dry Out Today and Begin to Warm



Gorgeous week ahead with highs in the 60s and 70s, along with dry conditions



National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

www.weather.gov/abr

GRAPHIC CREATED:
10/15/2017 5:35 AM

Published on: 10/15/2017 at 5:39AM

Yesterday's storm system is long gone and we will return to dry conditions today. Temperatures will be a bit warmer as well, with highs in the 50s to low 60s. Winds will become a bit breezy out of the northwest this afternoon under mostly sunny skies. The week ahead will be dry, along with above normal temperatures in the 60s and 70s.

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 53.7

Low Outside Temp: 35.3

High Gust: 22

Precip: 0.48

Today's Info

Record High: 88° in 1958

Record Low: 18° in 1992

Average High: 58°F

Average Low: 33°F

Average Precip in Oct: 1.09

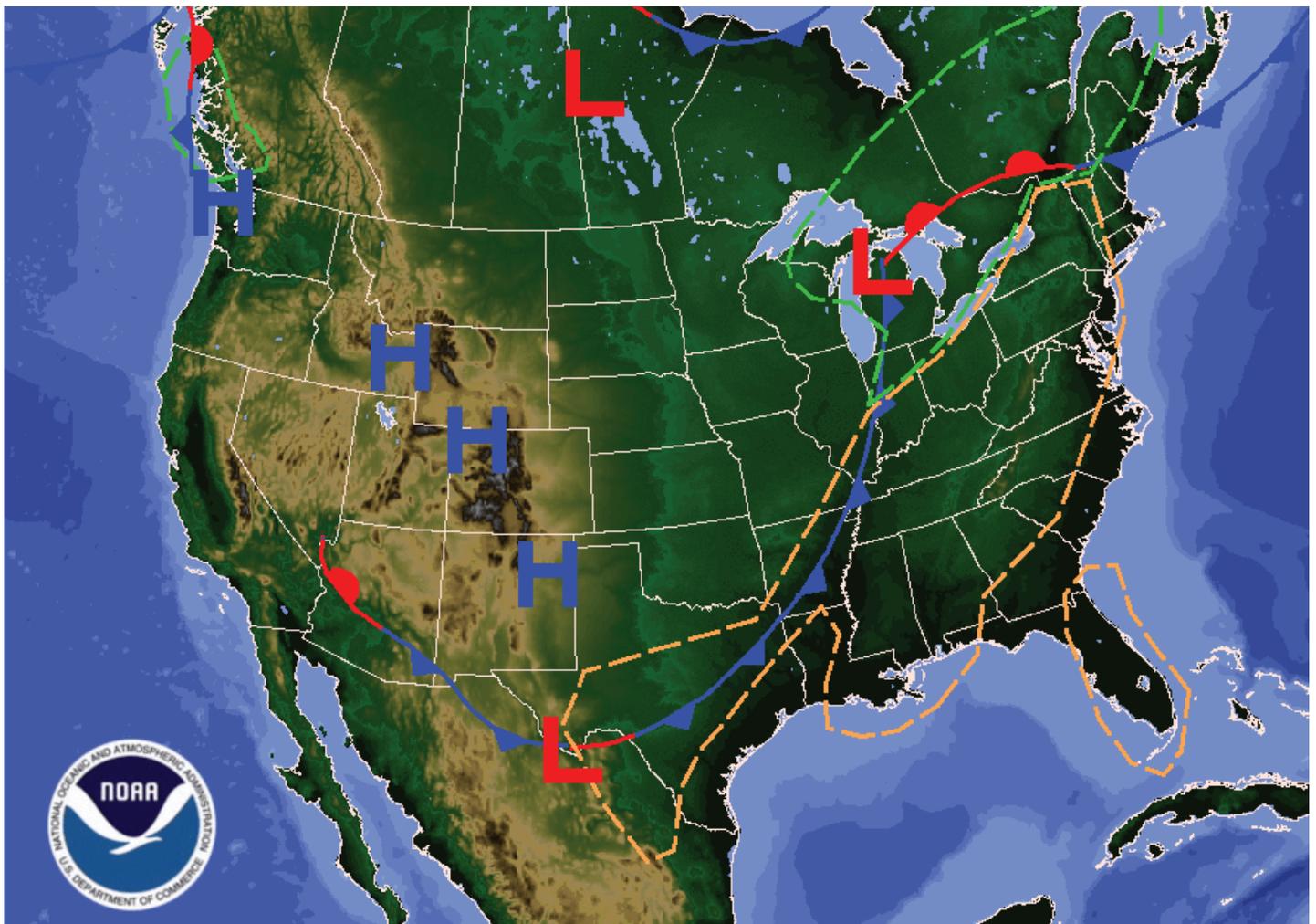
Precip to date in Oct: 0.67

Average Precip to date: 19.57

Precip Year to Date: 13.47

Sunset Tonight: 6:47 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:51 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Sun, Oct 15, 2017, issued 4:29 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Krekeler with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

Rain

Rain and T'Storms

Rain and Snow

Snow

Flash Flooding Possible (hatched)

Severe T'Storms Possible (hatched)

Freezing Rain Possible (hatched)

Heavy Snow Possible (hatched)

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HEARTS THAT SING PRAISES

Music has been called "the universal language." Wherever there are people there is music. It seems to come from the very nature of man. Every tribe on every continent has had musicians that make their own type of music. It is different from place to place, from being as irritating as fingernails on a chalk board to sounding like the "voices of angels."

The first "recognized" musician was Jabal who is mentioned in Genesis 4:21. He was the "father" of all who played the harp and flute. Music was very important to Moses and the Children of Israel. One of their earliest songs is introduced in Exodus 15:1 – "I will sing to the Lord, for He is highly exalted."

Music has always played an important role in the history of Christianity. In fact, before the followers of Christ met to worship God the choirs of heaven sang on the night that Christ was born. And Jesus Himself led His followers in singing a hymn of praise before going to Gethsemane!

Pliny was commissioned by a Roman Emperor to investigate the belief and behavior of Christians. He reported, "They have a custom of meeting before dawn on an appointed day, and singing hymns to Christ."

Although music is everywhere, why is the music of God's children different? David said, "I will sing and make music!" immediately after he found a new steadfastness, or confidence, in God's grace. That's why!

When hearts are at peace with God, people sing!

Prayer: Thank You, God, for putting a song of joy in our hearts, praise on our lips and a smile on our faces! In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 57:7 My heart, O God, is steadfast, my heart is steadfast; I will sing and make music.

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2018 Groton SD Community Events

- Groton Lion's Club Bingo- Wednesday Nights 6:30pm at the Groton Legion (Year Round)
- 11/18/2017-3/31/2018 Groton Lion's Club Wheel of Meat- Saturday Nights 7pm at the Groton Legion (Fall/Winter Months)
- 1/28/2018 Carnival of Silver Skates 2pm & 6:30pm
- 3/24/2018 Easter Egg Hunt (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
- 5/5/2018 Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday in May)
- 5/28/2018 Groton American Legion Post #39 Memorial Day Program at the Cemetery, Lunch to follow at the American Legion (Memorial Day)
- 6/14/2018 Transit Fundraiser (Middle Thursday in June)
- 6/15/2018 SDSU Golf at Olive Grove
- 6/16/2018 Triathlon (Saturday before Father's Day)
- 7/4/2018 Firecracker Golf Tourney (4th of July)
- 7/22/2018 Summer Fest (4th Sunday in July)
- 9/8/2018 Fall City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday after Labor Day)
- 10/6/2018 Pumpkin Fest (Saturday before Columbus Day)
- 10/12/2018 Band Festival (2nd Friday in October)
- 10/31/2018 Trunk or Treat (Halloween)
- 11/10/2018 Groton American Legion Post #39 Turkey Shoot (Saturday closest to Veteran's Day)

- Best Ball Golf Tourney
- SDSU Golf Tourney
- Sunflower Golf Tourney
- Santa Claus Day
- Fireman's Stag
- Tour of Homes
- Crazy Dayz/Open Houses
- School Events

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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:

Hot Lotto

02-12-20-30-34, Hot Ball: 15

(two, twelve, twenty, thirty, thirty-four; Hot Ball: fifteen)

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$15 million

Powerball

32-37-56-66-69, Powerball: 11, Power Play: 3

(thirty-two, thirty-seven, fifty-six, sixty-six, sixty-nine; Powerball: eleven; Power Play: three)

Saturday's Scores

By The Associated Press

Volleyball

Aberdeen Central def. Brandon Valley, 25-17, 25-21, 25-11

Huron def. Rapid City Central, 25-12, 25-23, 25-19

Mitchell def. Rapid City Stevens, 24-26, 26-24, 15-25, 25-22, 15-9

Northwestern def. Milbank, 25-16, 25-16, 25-16

Sioux Falls Lincoln def. Brookings, 24-26, 25-19, 25-17, 18-25, 15-9

Sioux Valley def. Beresford, 25-16, 25-16, 13-25, 25-15

Warner def. Waubay/Summit, 25-9, 25-11, 25-10

Dakota Valley Conference Tournament

Pool Play

Pool A

Deubrook def. Estelline, 25-12, 25-12

Deubrook def. Lake Preston, 25-12, 25-16

Lake Preston def. Estelline, 25-4, 25-12

Pool B

Castlewood def. Dell Rapids St. Mary, 26-24, 25-7

Elkton-Lake Benton def. Castlewood, 25-16, 25-17

Elkton-Lake Benton def. Dell Rapids St. Mary, 25-14, 25-11

Pool C

Colman-Egan def. Oldham-Ramona/Rutland, 25-2, 25-22

DeSmet def. Oldham-Ramona/Rutland, 25-8, 25-14

DeSmet def. Colman-Egan, 16-25, 25-18, 27-25

Gold Tournament

Deubrook def. DeSmet, 25-21, 26-24

Deubrook def. Elkton-Lake Benton, 25-21, 24-26, 25-9

Elkton-Lake Benton def. DeSmet, 25-18, 25-17

Silver Tournament

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Castlewood def. Colman-Egan, 25-23, 15-25, 29-27

Colman-Egan def. Lake Preston, 25-10, 25-12

Lake Preston def. Castlewood, 21-25, 25-11, 25-17

Bronze Tournament

Dell Rapids St. Mary def. Oldham-Ramona/Rutland, 24-26, 25-21, 25-17

Dell Rapids St. Mary def. Estelline, 25-22, 26-24

Estelline def. Oldham-Ramona/Rutland, 25-12, 16-25, 25-18

Dakota XII Tournament

Play-In

Lennox def. Tri-Valley, 25-15, 25-8

Tea Area def. Canton, 25-14, 25-19

West Central def. Vermillion, 25-23, 25-17

First Round

Dakota Valley def. West Central, 25-10, 25-12

Elk Point-Jefferson def. Dell Rapids, 25-22, 25-16

Madison def. Tea Area, 25-21, 25-17

Sioux Falls Christian def. Lennox, 25-12, 25-16

Consolation Bracket

Semifinal

Dell Rapids def. Tea Area, 25-12, 25-21

Lennox def. West Central, 25-22, 19-25, 25-17

Seventh Place

West Central def. Tea Area, 17-25, 28-26, 25-23

Fifth Place

Dell Rapids def. Lennox, 22-25, 25-17, 25-12

Semifinal

Dakota Valley def. Madison, 25-14, 25-16

Sioux Falls Christian def. Elk Point-Jefferson, 25-11, 25-6

Third Place

Madison def. Elk Point-Jefferson, 25-22, 25-14

Championship

Sioux Falls Christian def. Dakota Valley, 19-25, 25-17, 25-20

Douglas Tournament

Pool Play

Pool A

Belle Fourche def. Rapid City Christian, 25-15, 20-25, 25-20

Rapid City Christian def. Bison, 25-21, 25-13

Rapid City Christian def. Todd County, 25-18, 25-4

Pool C

Philip def. Spearfish, 25-17, 25-20

Philip def. Oelrichs, 25-11, 25-13

Philip def. Little Wound, 25-7, 25-15

Spearfish def. Little Wound, 25-12, 25-18

Spearfish def. Oelrichs, 25-3, 25-6

Pool D

Bennett County def. Douglas, 19-25, 25-23, 25-14

Douglas def. Red Cloud, 25-23, 25-20

Kadoka Area def. Douglas, 25-23, 25-12

Kadoka Area def. Bennett County, 18-25, 25-13, 25-17

Kadoka Area def. Red Cloud, 25-7, 23-25, 25-14

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Lemmon def. Douglas, 25-21, 25-17

Semifinal

Philip def. Pine Ridge, 25-15, 25-22

Thunder Nation Tournament

Pool Play

Pool A

Andes Central/Dakota Christian def. Corsica/Stickney, 25-12, 25-16

Andes Central/Dakota Christian def. Wessington Springs, 25-16, 25-10

Andes Central/Dakota Christian def. Scotland, 25-18, 25-13

Andes Central/Dakota Christian def. Tripp-Delmont/Armour, 25-20, 25-19

Corsica/Stickney def. Tripp-Delmont/Armour, 25-22, 20-25, 25-23

Corsica/Stickney def. Wessington Springs, 17-25, 25-15, 25-18

Scotland def. Corsica/Stickney, 29-27, 25-21

Scotland def. Wessington Springs, 18-25, 25-16, 25-22

Tripp-Delmont/Armour def. Scotland, 25-20, 10-25, 25-23

Wessington Springs def. Tripp-Delmont/Armour, 25-20, 25-22

Pool B

Crow Creek def. Marty Indian, 25-19, 14-25, 25-23

Freeman Academy/Marion def. Marty Indian, 25-20, 25-10

Freeman Academy/Marion def. Menno, 25-21, 13-25, 25-16

Freeman Academy/Marion def. Crow Creek, 25-11, 25-12

Menno def. Marty Indian, 25-9, 25-11

Menno def. Crow Creek, 25-19, 25-5

Semifinal

Freeman Academy/Marion def. Scotland, 25-17, 27-25

Menno def. Andes Central/Dakota Christian, 14-25, 25-9, 25-23

Championship

Menno def. Freeman Academy/Marion, 25-21, 25-21

Weymiller leads Northern Iowa past South Dakota State 38-18

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — Marcus Weymiller ran for 170 yards and two touchdowns on 42 carries and Northern Iowa jumped on top early, cruising to a 38-18 win over South Dakota State on Saturday.

The Panthers (3-3, 2-1 Missouri Valley Conference) turned the tables on South Dakota State by scoring 17 first-quarter points. The Jackrabbits (4-2, 1-2) entered the game with a 56-7 advantage in opening quarters this season. South Dakota State also came in with the top third-down efficiency rating in the FCS at 62.1 percent, but the Panthers held them to 25 percent (3 of 12).

Weymiller scored on runs of 11 and 15 yards in the first half. Eli Dunne threw for two TDs in the fourth and finished 13-of-22 passing for 169 yards for the Panthers.

Northern Iowa also kept the Jackrabbits' Brady Mengarelli in check. Mengarelli, coming off a 220-yard performance last week, was held to 33 yards on seven carries.

SDSU's Jake Wieneke notched his 51st receiving TD to move into third all-time in the FCS.

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

Streveler, unbeaten South Dakota humble Indiana State, 56-6

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — Chris Streveler threw four touchdown passes and ran for 82 yards and a score as South Dakota remained unbeaten by humbling Indiana State, 56-6, Saturday afternoon.

Streveler now has accounted for 25 touchdowns through six games.

The Sycamores scored first on Jerry Nunez's 35-yard field goal to cap a 13-play drive to open the game,

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but Streveler answered with the first of two touchdown passes to Brandt Van Roekel on the ensuing drive. Nunez converted from 20-yards out to cut the Coyotes' lead to a single point, but Streveler found Van Roekel with a 55-yard strike to make it 14-6.

South Dakota (6-0, 3-0 Missouri Valley) led 28-6 at intermission.

Streveler completed 27 of 32 pass attempts for 337 yards. He has yet to commit a turnover this season.

Indiana State (0-6, 0-3) has a total of 10 touchdowns this season and remains winless under first-year head coach Curt Mallory.

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

South Dakota State Penitentiary inmate dies

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Authorities say a South Dakota state prison inmate has died.

Corrections Department officials say 54-year-old Wade Aikins was found unresponsive in his cell Saturday morning at the South Dakota State Penitentiary in Sioux Falls.

A preliminary investigation shows the death is due to accidental asphyxiation. An autopsy will be conducted.

Aikins was sentenced to life in prison in 1985 after being convicted of second-degree murder in Lawrence County. He was also sentenced in 1994 to consecutive 5-year sentences from Bon Homme County for attempted escape and possession of a weapon by an inmate.

South Dakota officials seek comment on endangered species

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota wildlife officials are seeking public comments on a review of the state's endangered and threatened species.

The state Game, Fish and Parks has included 22 species for comment. The review includes the status of some species and criteria for downlisting them from endangered to threatened or removing them from the state list.

Comments are being accepted through Dec. 8.

The status reviews are available on the agency's website.

1 killed, 1 injured in rollover crash near New Underwood

NEW UNDERWOOD, S.D. (AP) — Authorities say one person was killed in a one-vehicle rollover north of New Underwood.

The South Dakota Highway Patrol says a 50-year-old woman was driving a Ford Explorer about 10:30 p.m. Friday when she swerved to miss a deer. She lost control of the vehicle and it rolled several times.

A 54-year-old man died from injuries sustained in the crash. The driver sustained minor injuries and was taken to a Rapid City hospital.

Two other passengers, a 27-year-old woman and 1-year-old boy, were not injured.

The patrol says all of the occupants were wearing seatbelts.

Sioux Falls discovers more secret settlements

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Supreme Court's recent decision to open a once-secret settlement over buckled siding on Sioux Falls' new events center has opened the door to other secret settlements.

The high court's ruling made clear that public entities can't seal the details of disputes with private parties without judicial oversight. But in the past decade in Sioux Falls, three disputes have been settled in that fashion, the Argus Leader reported.

The city released the details of the Premier Center settlement one day after the court ruled in Argus Leader Media's favor. The city attorney's office released the other two settlements after a public records

request.

The first settlement was seven years ago. An apartment owner was paid \$85,000 involved for damage caused after the collapse of a major sewer line.

The second settlement was three years ago. A man injured by a teenage joyrider in a police chase that left his colleague dead settled a claim against the city for \$125,000.

"I think it's fair to say that these agreements that we released fall into the same general category as the siding issue in that they were resolved without going to court and there was a confidential clause," said Diane Best, assistant city attorney.

The reason for secrecy isn't disclosed in either settlement.

City Attorney Dave Pfeifle said that most settlements are open, and that those which aren't are usually closed at the request of the other party in a dispute.

The former apartment owner, Bonnie Murray, said this wasn't the case with her settlement. She said she had nothing to do with the confidentiality clauses.

"I think they should always release them (taxpayer-funded settlements), don't you?" Murray asked.

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

South Dakota county receives \$1.75M grant for justice system

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A county sheriff's office and a circuit court in South Dakota have received a \$1.75 million grant for criminal justice reform and to reduce the county jail population.

The Pennington County Sheriff's Office and Seventh Circuit Court received the grant from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, the Rapid City Journal reported. It's part of the Safety and Justice Challenge, a more than \$100 million national initiative to reduce over-incarceration by changing the way people about jails and their uses. The funding is intended to provide additional support for strategies that address the main reasons of local jail incarceration.

"Everyone benefits when our local justice systems responsibly steward taxpayer dollars and commit to safely improving outcomes for families and communities," said Sheriff Kevin Thom. "We are encouraged by past progress and look forward to continuing these critical efforts in partnership with the community we serve."

The sheriff's office and circuit court have created a plan for local justice system reforms, aiming to reduce the average daily jail population by 20 to 24 percent over two years.

"One part of our plan to accomplish this is to speed up the case processing pace. Our participation in the Safety and Justice Challenge has been crucial in helping us make headway toward this goal," said Seventh Circuit presiding judge Craig Pfeifle. "The additional support will help us continue this work, while also pushing our justice reform efforts further."

By 2019, the cities, counties and states supported by the grant hope to have reduced jail populations by 18 to 30 percent.

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

Death toll from blast in Somalia's capital rises to 189

By ABDI GULED, Associated Press

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP) — The death toll from the most powerful bomb blast witnessed in Somalia's capital rose to 189 with more than 200 injured, making it the deadliest single attack ever in the Horn of Africa nation, police and hospital sources said Sunday.

Doctors struggled to assist horrifically wounded victims, many burnt beyond recognition. Officials feared the toll would continue to climb from Saturday's truck bomb that targeted a busy street near key ministries. Sources for the death toll spoke on condition of anonymity as they were not authorized to speak to reporters.

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Ambulance sirens still echoed across the city as bewildered families wandered in the rubble of buildings, looking for missing relatives. "In our 10 year experience as the first responder in #Mogadishu, we haven't seen anything like this," the Amin Ambulance service tweeted.

Grief overwhelmed many.

"There's nothing I can say. We have lost everything," wept Zainab Sharif, a mother of four who lost her husband. She sat outside a hospital where he was pronounced dead after hours of efforts by doctors to save him from an arterial injury.

President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed declared three days of mourning and joined thousands of people who responded to a desperate plea by hospitals to donate blood for the wounded victims. "I am appealing all Somali people to come forward and donate," he said.

"The hospital is overwhelmed by both dead and wounded. We also received people whose limbs were cut away by the bomb. This is really horrendous, unlike any other time in the past," said Dr. Mohamed Yusuf, the director of Medina hospital.

Overnight, rescue workers with flashlights searched for survivors trapped under the rubble of the largely destroyed Safari Hotel, which is close to Somalia's foreign ministry. The explosion blew off metal gates and blast walls erected outside the hotel.

Somalia's government has blamed the al-Qaida-linked al-Shabab extremist group for the attack it called a "national disaster." However, al-Shabab, which often targets high-profile areas of the capital with bombings, had yet to comment.

"They don't care about the lives of Somali people, mothers, fathers and children," Prime Minister Hassan Ali Khaire said. "They have targeted the most populated area in Mogadishu, killing only civilians."

Somalia's information minister, Abdirahman Omar, said the blast was the largest the city had ever seen. "It's a sad day. This how merciless and brutal they are, and we have to unite against them," he said, speaking to the state-run radio station.

The United States joined the condemnation, saying "such cowardly attacks reinvigorate the commitment of the United States to assist our Somali and African Union partners to combat the scourge of terrorism."

The U.S. military has stepped up drone strikes and other efforts this year against al-Shabab, which is also fighting the Somali military and over 20,000 African Union forces in the country.

Saturday's blast occurred two days after the head of the U.S. Africa Command was in Mogadishu to meet with Somalia's president, and two days after the country's defense minister and army chief resigned for undisclosed reasons.

Associated Press video journalist Mohamed Sheikh Nor in Mogadishu, Somalia contributed.

Wildfires now up to 100 miles wide as death toll reaches 40

By **SUDHIN THANAWALA** and **ELLEN KNICKMEYER**, Associated Press

SONOMA, Calif. (AP) — They fled in fear nearly a week ago. Now they're ready to go back.

While wildfires are still burning powerfully in parts of Northern California, some of the tens of thousands of evacuees are getting antsy to return to homes that aren't under immediate threat. Others want to see if they still have homes to return to.

But authorities are staying cautious in the face of blazes that have now killed at least 40 people and destroyed at least 5,700 homes.

"We're on pins and needles," Travis Oglesby, who evacuated from his home in Santa Rosa, said to Sonoma County Sheriff Robert Giordano on Saturday. "We're hearing about looting."

Although some evacuees were returning home in Mendocino County, the latest estimates were that about 100,000 people were under evacuation orders as the fires burned for a sixth day.

Plans were in the works to reopen communities, but they were not ready to be put into effect, said Dave Teter, a deputy director with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

Douglas and Marian Taylor stood outside their apartment complex Saturday in Santa Rosa with their two

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dogs and a sign that said "End evacuation now."

Their building was unharmed at the edge of the evacuation zone with a police barricade set up across the street. The couple said they are spending about \$300 per day to rent a motel and eat out, and they want to return home because the fire does not appear to threaten their home.

At an evacuation center at the fairgrounds in the Sonoma County city of Petaluma, volunteers sorted through mounds of donated baby wipes, diapers, pillows, shoes and clothing.

Randy Chiado and his wife, Barbara, evacuated Monday from the Oakmont section of Santa Rosa. They stayed for several days with a friend in Santa Rosa but left Saturday when flames approached again and sought refuge at the fairgrounds.

"After so many times of 'It's coming, get ready. It's coming, get ready,' it just gets nerve-wracking," Barbara Chiado said.

Life away from home has been difficult and dangerous. Randy Chiado said a man who may have suspected he was a looter tried to punch him through his car window and yelled for a friend to get a gun when the Chiodos turned onto a residential street. He said he was able to push the man off and drive away.

The couple planned to spend the night with other evacuees in a room set up with cots. "It's like jail," he said.

Hundreds of people remain unaccounted for, though officials think they'll locate most of them alive.

Most of the deceased are believed to have died late on Oct. 8 or early Oct. 9, when the fires exploded and took people by surprise in the dead of night. Most of the victims were elderly, though they ranged in age from 14 to 100.

"It's a horror that no one could have imagined," Gov. Jerry Brown said, after driving past hundreds of "totally destroyed" homes with Sens. Dianne Feinstein and Kamala Harris.

From the sky, large subdivisions that burned to the ground looked like black and white photos. Each neatly outlined lot is full of ashen rubble. Cars are burned a darker gray. Trees still standing are charred black. Only streets look unscathed.

Brown, 79, and Feinstein, 84, said the fires were the worst of their lifetimes. The two veteran politicians reminded people that the blazes remain a threat and that people need to leave their homes when told to go.

No causes have been determined for the fires, though power lines downed by winds are seen as a possibility.

In all, 17 large fires still burned across the northern part of the state, with more than 10,000 firefighters attacking the flames using air tankers, helicopters and more than 1,000 fire engines.

Signs posted in Sonoma thanked the firefighters. One declared them "heroes among us."

Associated Press writers Olga Rodriguez and Marcio Jose Sanchez in Santa Rosa, Daisy Nguyen in San Francisco and Martha Mendoza in Santa Cruz contributed to this report.

Follow the AP's complete wildfire coverage here: <https://apnews.com/tag/Wildfires> .

Taylor, Puig power Dodgers past Cubs 5-2 in NLCS Game 1

By GREG BEACHAM, AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Although Clayton Kershaw once again failed to dominate in a postseason start, these Los Angeles Dodgers don't need one guy to carry them.

With a relentless lineup, flawless relief pitching and a collective charisma epitomized by the bat-flipping Yasiel Puig, the Dodgers are still unbeaten in the postseason and off to a strong start in the NL Championship Series.

Chris Taylor hit a tiebreaking homer in the sixth inning, Puig added a homer and an RBI double to his dynamite postseason, and the Dodgers overcame a short start by Kershaw for a 5-2 victory over the Chicago Cubs on Saturday night in the NLCS opener.

"We just tried to set the tone early against the Cubs," closer Kenley Jansen said. "We understand they're

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the defending champions, so they're a really good team. We understand that we won 104 games, but right now it doesn't matter."

Charlie Culberson doubled, drove in the tying run and scored another while replacing injured All-Star shortstop Corey Seager for the resourceful Dodgers, who improved to 4-0 in this postseason."

With another collective offensive effort and four innings of perfect relief for Kershaw, the Dodgers calmly overcame an early two-run deficit and took the first game of this rematch of the 2016 NLCS, won in six games by the Cubs on the way to their first World Series championship in 108 years.

"It's two different ballclubs," Dodgers manager Dave Roberts said. "There are some similar players, but I think that the season we had versus the season they had last year, I think that you could parallel those two, and the confidence we have in our group, and they had in their group last year. I just know that this year we're a very focused group, very confident group."

The Dodgers hadn't won the opening game of an NLCS since 1985. Game 2 is Sunday, with Rich Hill starting at home against Chicago's Jon Lester.

Kershaw pitched five innings of four-hit ball, but the Los Angeles ace fell behind 2-0 before getting pulled for a pinch-hitter during the Dodgers' tying rally.

After winning 104 games in the regular season and sweeping Arizona in the Division Series, the Dodgers have a lineup and bullpen equipped to handle almost anything. They made Kershaw's latest laborious postseason start virtually irrelevant, just as they did after he gave up four homers in his 2017 playoff opener against the Diamondbacks last week.

Albert Almora Jr. hit a two-run homer in the fourth, but the final 18 batters failed to reach base for the weary Cubs, still bouncing back from a 10-hour cross-country flight after finishing off Washington in an epic Game 5 late Thursday night.

"Their bullpen is pretty firm, and we have to really get our feet back on the ground," Cubs manager Joe Maddon said.

Puig added another huge offensive game to his recent surge with his first career postseason homer — though in a postgame interview on TBS, he was convinced he had hit one before.

The Cuban slugger also included his usual array of creative bat discards and portentous pauses at the plate.

Los Angeles finally got rolling in the fifth when Logan Forsythe and Austin Barnes drew one-out walks before Puig hammered a double to left-center. The ebullient Cuban slugger headed to second only after flipping his bat and spreading his arms wide at the plate.

Puig's sky-high homer off Mike Montgomery in the sixth barely got over the fence in left. Puig is 7 for 15 with six RBIs in the Dodgers' first four playoff games.

"I grew up a little bit," Puig said. "(I'm) going to home plate having fun, because I know (if) I hit nothing, (if) I do nothing in the game, my teammates are going to have my back."

Kenta Maeda got three outs and the victory in his latest standout relief effort, and Jansen struck out all four batters he faced for his third save this postseason.

Kershaw's inability to match his sublime regular-season performances in the playoffs is a central theme of his career. The three-time NL Cy Young Award winner won the NLDS series opener last week despite giving up four homers at Dodger Stadium, and Almora's shot made him the first Dodgers pitcher to yield five homers in a single postseason.

CLOSE CALL

Maddon was ejected in the seventh after a call at the plate was reversed. Culberson initially was ruled out when he attempted to score from second, but was called safe after video review when catcher Willson Contreras was deemed to be in violation of blocking home plate without the ball.

"I saw a great baseball play," Maddon said. "His technique was absolutely 100 percent perfect. I could not disagree more with the interpretation of that."

GOOD START

Jose Quintana pitched five innings of two-hit ball for the Cubs one day after his wife, Michel, was taken off the team plane in Albuquerque with a medical ailment. But the Dodgers tied it against him in the fifth

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and went ahead in the sixth with Taylor's leadoff shot off loser Hector Rondon.

Despite pitching for the third time in six days after a start and a relief appearance against Washington, Quintana retired 12 of Los Angeles' first 13 batters.

SEAGER OUT

Seager was left off the NLCS roster due to back pain. The All-Star's surprise absence deprived Los Angeles of its No. 2 hitter and prompted the club to play Culberson, who had only 15 big league plate appearances in the regular season. But Culberson came through with a series of big plays at the plate and on the basepaths.

UP NEXT

Cubs: Lester won Game 5 of the 2016 NLCS at Dodger Stadium. He started Game 2 of the Division Series this year and added 3 2/3 innings of relief in Game 4 on Wednesday, but the veteran lefty compared that relief appearance to normal side work between starts. Lester's nine career postseason victories are the most among active pitchers except Justin Verlander, who picked up No. 10 in Houston earlier Saturday.

Dodgers: Hill is a former Cubs pitcher with just one career postseason victory, but the resilient veteran regularly comes through in tough situations for LA. He made it through just four innings in Game 2 against Arizona, but yielded only two runs.

More AP baseball: <https://apnews.com/tag/MLBbaseball>

Trump's speech sparks a new war of words between US, Iran

By **NASSER KARIMI** and **JON GAMBRELL**, Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — President Donald Trump's refusal to certify the Iran nuclear deal has sparked a new war of words between the Islamic Republic and America, fueling growing mistrust and a sense of nationalism among Iranians.

The speech has served to unite Iranians across the political spectrum — fed also by anger over Trump's refusal to refer to the Persian Gulf, the waterway through which a third of all oil traded by sea passes, by name.

The reaction is undercutting those trying to change Iran's clerically overseen government from within, and likely will strengthen the hand of hard-liners who long have insisted the U.S. remains the same "Great Satan" denounced in the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

"Under the deal, it was supposed to be that we get concessions, not that we give more concessions," the hard-line newspaper Kayhan raged.

Iranian officials and media outlets on Saturday uniformly condemned Trump for accusing Iran of violating the spirit of the 2015 accord and calling on Congress to toughen the law governing U.S. participation. Trump said he was not ready to pull out of the deal but warned he would do so if it were not improved.

In a televised speech shortly after Trump made his announcement, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said his country would remain in the deal, but criticized Trump's words, referring to them as "cursing and futile accusations."

Rouhani also said Iran would continue to build and test ballistic missiles, something allowed under the nuclear deal though Americans believe it violates the accord's spirit.

"We have always been determined, and today we are more determined," Rouhani said. "We will double our efforts from now on."

The Iranian president also offered a list of moments that showed the United States could not be trusted by the average Iranian, dating back to the 1953 CIA-backed coup that cemented U.S.-backed Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi's power.

Like many others in Iran, Rouhani focused on the fact that Trump used the term "Arabian Gulf" to refer to the Persian Gulf. Some traded online video clips of past American presidents calling it the Persian Gulf, while one semi-official news agency published a photo gallery with the title "Persian Gulf forever."

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Posts with (hashtag)PersianGulf and the Iranian flag circulated on social media.

The name of the body of water has become an emotive issue for Iranians who embrace their country's long history as the Persian Empire, especially as U.S. Gulf Arab allies and the American military now call it the "Arabian Gulf." Rouhani even suggested during his speech that Trump needed to "study geography."

"Everyone knew Trump's friendship was for sale to the highest bidder. We now know that his geography is, too," Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif wrote on Twitter.

Zarif went on, with sarcasm, to mention Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia, all hereditarily ruled Gulf nations, writing: "No wonder supporters of Trump's inane Iran speech are those bastions of democracy in the Persian Gulf."

Later in the day, Zarif said in a televised interview that "Trump and the U.S. are not in a position to certify Iran's compliance to its commitments" under the deal.

Zarif said the United Nations' nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency, is the only authorized body for certification of the deal.

"Any time that the Islamic Republic feels activities are not enough in lifting sanctions, it can have its own options, and one of them is quitting the deal," he said.

Reformist activist Mostafa Tajzadeh, who spent seven years in prison following the turmoil of the 2009 disputed re-election of President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, also urged a united stance against Trump.

"One nation, one message: No to (hashtag)Trump. We're all in this together," Tajzadeh tweeted.

Recent surveys have said an increasing majority of Iranians are skeptical that the U.S. will live up to its obligations in the nuclear deal. Meanwhile, most have yet to see the benefits of the deal itself as Iran's economy still struggles to overcome rampant inflation, few jobs and bad loans to its banks.

"Iran has in no way violated the nuclear deal, and as far as we know it has always remained committed to its promises, but it has always been (the Americans) who have broken their promises and have had other options on the table," Tehran resident Hamed Ghassemi said.

The U.S. has also levied new sanctions against Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard, whose forces fight the Islamic State group in Iraq, support embattled Syrian President Bashar Assad, have tense encounters with U.S. warships in the Persian Gulf and run the country's ballistic missile program.

However, the U.S. has balked at adding the Guard's name to a formal State Department list of foreign terrorist organizations. That could have proven problematic, especially with the Guard's vast economic holdings across Iran.

Gen. Masoud Jazayeri, a Guard commander and spokesman for Iran's joint armed forces staff, said late Friday that the country's military will continue boosting its power and influence.

"We tell the corrupt and evil government of the U.S. that we will continue promoting defensive power of the country, more determined and with more motive than before," Jazayeri was quoted as saying by the Guard's news website. "We do not spare a while for defending suppressed people in any point of the world."

Gambrell reported from Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

Family dog emerges alive and happy from wildfire aftermath

By JONATHAN J. COOPER, Associated Press

SANTA ROSA, Calif. (AP) — Jack Weaver and his brother-in-law Patrick Widen walked around police barricades, through a creek and up treacherous hilly roads to save Weaver's mother from the grim task of recovering the body of the family's beloved dog Izzy.

Katherine Weaver was convinced Izzy died in a ferocious wildfire that destroyed their Northern California neighborhood and sent them fleeing for safety, Katherine still in her nightgown.

When the men reached the end of the narrow road on Tuesday, Jack Weaver swore as he saw that the house was completely gone. But then Izzy suddenly came bounding out for a joyous reunion.

Jack Weaver, who was filming the scene for his parents, captured the moment on his phone in a video that's gone viral on Facebook, providing a rare bit of good news amid endless scenes of severe destruction.

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"She was very happy to see us," Weaver said of Izzy, a 9-year-old Bernese Mountain Dog. "She's such a brave dog. She was panting a lot and clearly stressed. But she was not frantic or anything."

In the frantic race to escape in the middle of the night, the Weavers and many others were forced to leave behind their pets because they couldn't be found or there was simply no time to get them. Thousands of people remained evacuated Saturday as fires continued to rage in California's wine country and authorities said it was still too dangerous to return to burned-out neighborhoods of Santa Rosa.

Cellphone service was sketchy, but Weaver was eventually able to reach his mother, who was staying with relatives in the San Francisco Bay Area.

"She just lost it," Weaver said. "She went from being devastated about losing her home to the being the happiest person I've ever seen. I couldn't get home fast enough. She was really, really happy ... She's still shaken up by the whole thing, but she's in much better spirits now that Izzy is at our house."

Animal care workers are working overtime to feed and provide medical care for the pets who survived the inferno.

For Weaver, his first priority was telling his mother that Izzy survived.

A veterinarian said Izzy was fine, likely insulated from the fire's intense heat by her thick fur coat.

At Sonoma County Animal Services, veterinarians and assistants are caring for 64 cats and 44 dogs, nearly all of them brought in from fire zones. Cats generally have the most severe injuries, including smoke inhalation, burned paws or singed fur and whiskers.

"The severity is often terrible," said Dr. Katie McKenzie, the lead veterinarian. "Their paw pads are burned off. Or if they aren't, they come off in the days following. So our goal is to treat them, to remove the tissue that is too burned to be saved and to provide them with pain medication, bandaging."

Caretakers will change the bandages every 48 hours for as long as six to eight weeks, she said.

Shelter workers update their website every hour with photos of the pets they've rescued, and they're fielding frantic calls from worried pet owners searching for their furry companions. Twenty five animals have been reunited with their owners, said Monica Argenti, a spokeswoman for the shelter, which is run by the county.

<https://apnews.com/tag/Wildfires>

Motion Picture Academy expels movie mogul Harvey Weinstein

LOS ANGELES (AP) — In a move virtually unprecedented, disgraced movie mogul Harvey Weinstein's membership in the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences was revoked Saturday by its board.

The decision was reached in an emergency session by the academy, the world's top movie organization and home to the Oscars. The expulsion was effective immediately.

It comes after recent reports by The New York Times and The New Yorker about sexual harassment and rape allegations against Weinstein going back decades. He has denied the accusations against him.

In issuing its decision, the academy stated "We do so not simply to separate ourselves from someone who does not merit the respect of his colleagues but also to send a message that the era of willful ignorance and shameful complicity in sexually predatory behavior and workplace harassment in our industry is over."

"What's at issue here," the statement added, "is a deeply troubling problem that has no place in our society."

The statement said the decision was reached by "well in excess of the required two-thirds majority" of the 54-member academy board.

Only one person is thought to have been previously expelled from the academy: Carmine Caridi, a character actor who had his membership revoked in 2004 for lending DVD screeners of films in contention for Oscars that ended up online.

The academy's swift and severe ruling against Weinstein may raise questions about other academy members who remain in good standing. These include Roman Polanski, an Oscar-winner who in the 1970s pleaded guilty to drugging and raping a 13-year-old girl, and entertainer Bill Cosby, who has faced dozens

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of allegations of sexual assault.

Weinstein, himself an Oscar winner as a producer of the 1998 Best Picture "Shakespeare in Love," was ousted a week ago from The Weinstein Co., the movie and TV production company he co-founded with his brother Bob and which now is struggling to survive the scandal.

In an interview published Saturday by The Hollywood Reporter, Bob Weinstein called for his "sick and depraved" brother to be kicked out of the academy.

Speaking more broadly, Bob Weinstein added, "I want him to get the justice that he deserves."

On Wednesday, Harvey Weinstein's membership in the British Academy of Film and Television Arts was revoked.

In a related development, British actress Lysette Anthony says she has told police that Weinstein raped her in London in the 1980s.

It was reported this week that London police were investigating a rape allegation against the producer relating to an incident in the '80s. The city's Metropolitan Police confirmed it was investigating a sexual assault allegation from that decade, without identifying Weinstein by name.

Anthony, who currently appears in the soap opera "Hollyoaks," told the Sunday Times newspaper that Weinstein raped her in the late 1980s after showing up at her London home. She said she was left feeling "disgusted and embarrassed" after the attack.

Anthony tweeted on Wednesday: "Have just reported an historic crime . feel sick . so sad."

Altuve's dash lifts Verlander, Astros over Yanks in Game 2

By KRISTIE RIEKEN, AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON (AP) — With each stinging line drive, Jose Altuve is putting his stamp on this October. Same with every pitch from Justin Verlander, no matter the inning or score.

Houston's longest tenured player and its durable new ace — an incomparable pair so far this postseason.

Altuve raced home on Carlos Correa's double in the ninth inning, Verlander struck out 13 in a complete game and the Astros beat the New York Yankees 2-1 Saturday for a 2-0 lead in the AL Championship Series.

Correa also homered, but Houston needed a daring dash from the 5-foot-6 Altuve to get Verlander a win. Altuve, an AL MVP front-runner, reached with a one-out single against closer Aroldis Chapman, then sprinted around from first base on Correa's shot to right-center field. Shortstop Didi Gregorius' relay beat Altuve to the plate, but catcher Gary Sanchez misplayed a short-hop, allowing Houston's dynamo second baseman to slide past safely.

"When I saw him running I was like, 'Oh God,'" Correa said. "And then obviously he beat it out."

Altuve had two more hits and is 13 for 23 (.565) this postseason after hitting just 4 for 26 (.154) in the 2015 playoffs.

"He's unbelievable," Verlander said. "The guy does everything."

Verlander improved to 8-0 in eight appearances with Houston since agreeing to an Aug. 31 trade from the Tigers, including his Game 4 win in relief during a Division Series against Boston. He has a 2.04 ERA over a postseason-leading 17 2/3 innings.

"When I decided to say yes, these are the moments that you envision," Verlander said of agreeing to the trade. "You don't envision going 5-0 in the regular season once you get here, that's all fine and great, but that's not why I was brought here. I was brought here to help this team win a championship."

Verlander set a postseason career best for strikeouts and allowed five hits in his second career complete game in the playoffs. He threw a season-high 124 pitches and retired baby Bronx Bombers Aaron Judge, Sanchez and Greg Bird in the top of the ninth.

"This is such a big moment for our team, but he put us on his back today with his pitching," manager A.J. Hinch said.

Dallas Keuchel won Game 1 for the Astros — also 2-1 — pairing with Verlander to give the Astros perhaps the best 1-2 punch in these playoffs.

"That was one of the most impressive things I've seen in my professional career for sure," Keuchel said.

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"But that's why we got him — for his postseason pedigree."

In the bottom of the ninth, Judge picked up Correa's hit in right field and threw toward second base. Gregorius fielded there, and his throw beat Altuve to the plate by a few steps. Sanchez just couldn't squeeze the one-hopper.

"That's a play I'm used to making," Sanchez said through a translator. "Really thought I had a chance at making that play there. Unfortunately I dropped the ball and couldn't make that play."

The Astros mobbed Correa in shallow center field while Altuve pointed and smiled from near home plate. Houston took its first ever 2-0 lead in a Championship Series in front of a crowd of 43,193 which included Houston Rockets stars James Harden, Chris Paul and Trevor Ariza in front-row seats. Minute Maid Park buzzed throughout, and fans let out huge cheer when Hinch sent Verlander back out to pitch the ninth.

"No words were necessary," Verlander said. "It was my game to win or lose."

Verlander got the first complete game by any pitcher this reliever-heavy postseason and his first nine-inning outing since his Tigers beat the Astros 3-2 on July 30, 2016. This was the seventh time Verlander had 10 or more strikeouts in the postseason, extending his major league record, and his seventh postseason game with 120 pitches or more.

The unshakable right-hander struck out the side in the eighth, and television shots showed fiancée Kate Upton in a pink sequined shirt cheering and clapping wildly as he walked off.

Verlander, Keuchel and two relievers have combined to strike out 27 Yankees in the series.

"They're making pitches on these kids," New York manager Joe Girardi said. "And maybe are they trying a little bit too hard? Yeah, of course. But I think everyone out there's probably trying a little bit too hard."

Correa's homer in the fourth off starter Luis Severino sailed just out of reach of Judge and 12-year-old Carson Riley, who was sitting in the front row in right field. The ball bounced off Riley's glove and into the stands, and Girardi asked for a video review to check for fan interference. Umpires upheld the call.

Riley hopes to get the ball signed by Correa and called the moment: "A really cool one."

It was reminiscent of a homer by Derek Jeter in Game 1 of the 1996 ALCS between the Yankees and Orioles. A 12-year-old Jeffrey Maier reached out and deflected Jeter's hit into the stands, but umpires ruled it a home run.

The 23-year-old Correa is the fifth player ever with five home runs in the postseason before turning 24.

Todd Frazier drove in New York's run with a ground-rule double in the fifth when his shot to left-center got stuck in the chain-link fence protecting the visitors' bullpen. Center fielder George Springer tossed his glove in the air several times attempting to knock the ball loose, but never got close.

Severino allowed two hits and a run in four innings. He was hit by a comebacker from Yuli Gurriel on the last out of the fourth, and Girardi said they lifted him as a precaution.

Tommy Kahnle and David Robertson threw two scoreless innings each for New York before Chapman allowed his first run in 18 2/3 innings.

Verlander got out of the third inning unscathed thanks to two big defensive plays. The first came when Josh Reddick made a leaping catch before crashing into the low wall in right field to rob Chase Headley of a hit for the second out of the inning.

Verlander raised his right fist into the air after the catch before pounding it into his glove several times to acknowledge Reddick's work.

Brett Gardner followed with a rip to the corner of right field, but was thrown out trying to stretch it into a triple. Reddick threw it to Correa, whose one-hop to third base was just in time for Alex Bregman to tag Gardner out. He was initially ruled safe, but Bregman was so confident in his tag that he walked off the field as soon as the play was done. Hinch challenged, and it was quickly overturned.

UP NEXT

Yankees: CC Sabathia will start Game 3 on Monday in New York. It will be his third start this postseason and 21st career playoff start. The 37-year-old lefty allowed eight hits and six runs — four earned — with 14 strikeouts across 9 2/3 innings in two starts in the ALDS.

Astros: Charlie Morton is scheduled to pitch for Houston in Game 3. He allowed seven hits and two runs

in 4 1/3 innings of Houston's 5-4 win over the Red Sox in Game 4 of the ALDS.

More AP baseball: <https://apnews.com/tag/MLBbaseball>

Pro-Trump states most affected by his health care decision

By CHRISTINA A. CASSIDY and MEGHAN HOYER, Associated Press

President Donald Trump's decision to end a provision of the Affordable Care Act that was benefiting roughly 6 million Americans helps fulfill a campaign promise, but it also risks harming some of the very people who helped him win the presidency.

Nearly 70 percent of those benefiting from the so-called cost-sharing subsidies live in states Trump won last November, according to an analysis by The Associated Press. The number underscores the political risk for Trump and his party, which could end up owning the blame for increased costs and chaos in the insurance marketplace.

The subsidies are paid to insurers by the federal government to help lower consumers' deductibles and co-pays. People who benefit will continue receiving the discounts because insurers are obligated by law to provide them. But to make up for the lost federal funding, health insurers will have to raise premiums substantially, potentially putting coverage out of reach for many consumers.

Some insurers may decide to bail out of markets altogether.

"I woke up, really, in horror," said Alice Thompson, 62, an environmental consultant from the Milwaukee area who purchases insurance on Wisconsin's federally run health insurance exchange.

Thompson, who spoke with reporters on a call organized by a health care advocacy group, said she expects to pay 30 percent to 50 percent more per year for her monthly premium, potentially more than her mortgage payment. Officials in Wisconsin, a state that went for a Republican presidential candidate for the first time in decades last fall, assumed the federal subsidy would end when they approved premium rate increases averaging 36 percent for the coming year.

An estimated 4 million people were benefiting from the cost-sharing payments in the 30 states Trump carried, according to an analysis of 2017 enrollment data from the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Of the 10 states with the highest percentage of consumers benefiting from cost-sharing, all but one — Massachusetts — went for Trump.

Kentucky embraced former President Barack Obama's Affordable Care Act under its last governor, a Democrat, and posted some of the largest gains in getting its residents insured. Its new governor, a Republican, favors the GOP stance to replace it with something else.

Roughly half of the estimated 71,000 Kentuckians buying health insurance on the federal exchange were benefiting from the cost-sharing subsidies Trump just ended. Despite the gains from Obama's law, the state went for Trump last fall even as he vowed to repeal it.

Consumers such as Marsha Clark fear what will happen in the years ahead, as insurers raise premiums on everyone to make up for the end of the federal money that helped lower deductibles and co-pays.

"I'm stressed out about the insurance, stressed out about the overall economy, and I'm very stressed out about our president," said Clark, a 61-year-old real estate broker who lives in a small town about an hour's drive south of Louisville. She pays \$1,108 a month for health insurance purchased on the exchange.

While she earns too much to benefit from the cost-sharing subsidy, she is worried that monthly premiums will rise so high in the future that it will make insurance unaffordable.

Sherry Riggs has a similar fear. The Fort Pierce, Florida, barber benefits from the deductible and co-pay discounts, as do more than 1 million other Floridians, the highest number of cost-sharing beneficiaries of any state.

She had bypass surgery following a heart attack last year and pays just \$10 a visit to see her cardiologist and only a few dollars for the medications she takes twice a day.

Her monthly premium is heavily subsidized by the federal government, but she worries about the cost soaring in the future. Florida, another state that swung for Trump, has approved rate increases averaging

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45 percent.

"Probably for some people it would be a death sentence," she said. "I think it's kind of a tragic decision on the president's part. It scares me because I don't think I'll be able to afford it next year."

Rates already were rising in the immediate aftermath of Trump's decision. Insurance regulators in Arkansas, another state that went for Trump, approved premium increases on Friday ranging from 14 percent to nearly 25 percent for plans offered through the insurance marketplace. Had federal cost-sharing been retained, the premiums would have risen by no more than 10 percent.

In Mississippi, another state Trump won, an estimated 80 percent of consumers who buy coverage on the insurance exchange benefit from the deductible and co-pay discounts, the highest percentage of any state. Premiums there will increase by 47 percent next year, after regulators assumed Trump would end the cost-sharing payments.

The National Association of Insurance Commissioners has estimated the loss of the subsidies would result in a 12 percent to 15 percent increase in premiums, while the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office has put the figure at 20 percent. Experts say the political instability over Trump's effort to undermine Obama's health care law could prompt more insurers to leave markets, reducing competition and driving up prices.

Trump's move concerned some Republicans, worried the party will be blamed for the effects on consumers and insurance markets.

"I think the president is ill-advised to take this course of action, because we, at the end of the day, will own this," Republican Rep. Charlie Dent of Pennsylvania said Friday on CNN. "We, the Republican Party, will own this."

Dent is not running for re-election.

In announcing his decision, Trump argued the subsidies were payouts to insurance companies, and the government could not legally continue to make them. The subsidies have been the subject of an ongoing legal battle because the health care law failed to include a congressional appropriation, which is required before federal money can be spent.

The subsidies will cost about \$7 billion this year.

Many Republicans praised Trump's action, saying Obama's law has led to a spike in insurance costs for those who have to buy policies on the individual market.

Among them is Republican Rep. Andy Biggs of Arizona, a state Trump won. An estimated 78,000 Arizonans were benefiting from the federal subsidies for deductibles and co-pays.

"While his actions do not take the place of real legislative repeal and revitalization of free-market health care, he is doing everything possible to save Americans from crippling health care costs and decreasing quality of care," Biggs said.

Cassidy reported from Atlanta, Georgia. Hoyer, an AP data journalist, reported from Washington, D.C.

Associated Press writers Jeff Amy in Jackson, Mississippi; Scott Bauer in Madison, Wisconsin; Kelli Kennedy in Fort Lauderdale, Florida; Philip Marcelo in Boston; and Kevin Vineys in Washington, D.C., contributed to this report.

Follow Cassidy on Twitter at http://twitter.com/AP_Christina and Hoyer at <https://twitter.com/Meghan-Hoyer>.

Ex-hostages back in Canada after harrowing raid to free them

By **ROB GILLIES** and **PATRICK LEJTENYI**, Associated Press

SMITHS FALLS, Ontario (AP) — A couple held hostage for five years by a Taliban-linked extremist network in Afghanistan was safely back in Canada on Saturday after what the husband described as a harrowing firefight during a raid to free the family.

Joshua Boyle played with one of his sons in the garden of his parents' home. The boy appeared happy and

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healthy, digging in the grass as his father showed off the different plants and later spoke on a cellphone.

In a video released by Pakistan's military that was filmed before he left that country for home, Boyle said Pakistani security forces positioned themselves between the hostages and their Haqqani network captors to keep the family safe amid the gunfire.

"A major comes over to me while I still have blood on me. The street is chaos and he says to me, 'In the American media they said that we support the Haqqani network and that we make it possible. Today you have seen the truth. Did we not put bullets in those bastards?'" Boyle recalled, appearing beside his wife and children in the video.

"And so I can say to you I did see the truth, and the truth was that car was riddled with bullets. The ISI (Pakistan's intelligence agency) and the army got between the criminals and the car to make sure the prisoners were safe and my family was safe. They put them to flight and they ran like cowards. And this is proof enough to me the Pakistanis are doing everything to their utmost."

The circumstances under which the video was recorded were not immediately clear.

Boyle, his American wife, Caitlan Coleman, and their three children were rescued Wednesday, five years after the couple was abducted in Afghanistan while on a backpacking trip. Boyle said the kids, who were born in captivity, were adjusting to a new reality after growing up amid a group of "pagan" bandits.

"These are children who three days ago they did know what a toilet looks like. They used a bucket," Boyle said in the video. "Three days ago they did not know what a light is or what a door is except that it is a metal thing that is locked in their face to make them a prisoner.

"And now they are seeing houses, they are seeing food, they are seeing gifts, all of this. They are doing very well."

Coleman was pregnant at the time of their abduction and ultimately gave birth to four children while in captivity. Boyle said after landing at Toronto's airport that the extremists killed their newborn daughter and raped his wife during the years they were held.

He called on the Afghan government to bring their captors to justice, saying, "God willing, this litany of stupidity will be the epitaph of the Haqqani network."

The birth of the fourth child had not been publicly known until then.

Pakistan's Foreign Ministry spokesman, Nafees Zakaria, said the rescue raid was based on a tip from U.S. intelligence and shows that Pakistan will act against a "common enemy" when Washington shares information.

U.S. officials have long accused Pakistan of ignoring groups like the Haqqani network.

After returning to his parents' home in Smiths Falls, Ontario, Boyle emailed The Associated Press a statement saying they had "reached the first true 'home' that the children have ever known — after they spent most of Friday asking if each subsequent airport was our new house hopefully."

"Our daughter has had a cursory medical exam last night, and hospital staff were enthusiastically insistent that her chances seemed miraculously high based on a quick physical. Full medical work-ups for each member of my family are being arranged right now, and God-willing the healing process — physically and mentally can begin."

He also emailed to AP two photos of his son Najaeshi Jonah Makepeace Boyle and said the boy began "raiding the first refrigerator of his life." The picture shows the boy sitting on the floor in a dark corner with food in his hand. The other shows him napping with a blanket covering part of his face and surrounded by stuffed animals.

Earlier, on a flight from London, Coleman, who is from Stewartstown, Pennsylvania, sat in the business-class cabin wearing a tan headscarf.

She nodded wordlessly as she confirmed her identity to an AP reporter on board. Next to her were her two elder children. In the seat beyond that was Boyle, with their youngest in his lap. U.S. State Department officials accompanied them.

Boyle provided a separate, handwritten statement then expressing disagreement with U.S. foreign policy.

"God has given me and my family unparalleled resilience and determination, and to allow that to stagnate, to pursue personal pleasure or comfort while there is still deliberate and organized injustice in the

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world would be a betrayal of all I believe, and tantamount to sacrilege," he wrote.

He nodded toward one of the State Department officials and said, "Their interests are not my interests."

Washington considers the Haqqani group a terrorist organization and has targeted its leaders with drone strikes. But the Haqqani group also operates like a criminal network. Unlike the Islamic State group, it typically does not execute Western hostages, preferring to ransom them for cash.

A U.S. national security official, who was not authorized to discuss operational details of the release and spoke on condition of anonymity, said the U.S. obtained actionable information, passed it to Pakistani officials, asked them to interdict and recover the hostages — and they did.

President Donald Trump, who previously had warned Pakistan to stop harboring militants, praised the country for its "cooperation on many fronts." He said Friday on Twitter that the U.S. is starting to develop "a much better relationship with Pakistan and its leaders."

The operation appears to have unfolded quickly and ended with the raid, the shootout and a captor's final, terrifying threat to "kill the hostage." Boyle told his parents that he, his wife and their children were intercepted by Pakistani forces while being transported in the back or trunk of their captors' car and that some of his captors were killed. He suffered only a shrapnel wound, his family said.

U.S. officials did not confirm those details.

A U.S. military official said that a military hostage team had flown to Pakistan Wednesday prepared to fly the family out. The team did a preliminary health assessment and had a transport plane ready to go, but sometime after daybreak Thursday, as the family members were walking to the plane, Boyle said he did not want to board, the official said.

Boyle's father said his son did not want to board the plane because it was headed to Bagram Air Base and the family wanted to return directly to North America. Another U.S. official said Boyle was nervous about being in "custody" given his family ties.

He was once married to Zaynab Khadr, the older sister of former Guantanamo Bay detainee Omar Khadr and the daughter of a senior al-Qaida financier. Her father, the late Ahmed Said Khadr, and the family stayed with Osama bin Laden briefly when Omar Khadr was a boy.

The Canadian-born Omar Khadr was 15 when he was captured by U.S. troops following a firefight and was taken to the U.S. detention center at Guantanamo Bay. Officials had discounted any link between that background and Boyle's capture, with one describing it in 2014 as a "horrible coincidence."

The U.S. Justice Department said neither Boyle nor Coleman is wanted for any federal crime.

U.S. officials have said several other Americans are being held by militant groups in Afghanistan or Pakistan.

They include Kevin King, 60, a teacher at the American University of Afghanistan in Kabul who was abducted in August 2016, and Paul Overby, an author in his 70s who disappeared in eastern Afghanistan in 2014.

Associated Press writer Patrick Lejtenyi reported this story in Smiths Falls and AP writer Rob Gillies reported from Toronto. AP writer Martin Benedyk contributed reporting from the plane. AP writers Jill Colvin, Deb Riechmann and Matthew Lee in Washington, Jon Gambrell in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, and Lolita C. Baldor in Tampa, Florida, contributed to this report.

'Take a knee' comes to Germany through Hertha solidarity

By CIARAN FAHEY, Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — Hertha Berlin nodded to social struggles in the United States by kneeling before its Bundesliga home game on Saturday.

"We wanted to make a stand against racism," Hertha captain Per Skjelbred said after their 2-0 loss to Schalke.

Hertha's starting lineup linked arms and took a knee on the pitch, while Pal Dardai's coaching staff, general manager Michael Preetz, club officials and substitutes took a knee off it before kickoff.

"Hertha BSC stands for tolerance and responsibility! For a tolerant Berlin and an open-minded world,

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now and forevermore!" the club said on Twitter.

"Hertha Berlin stands for diversity and against violence. For this reason we are joining the protest of American athletes and setting a sign against discrimination," the stadium announcer told more than 50,000 fans attending the game at Berlin's Olympiastadion, originally built for the 1936 Olympics in Nazi Germany.

The action was intended to show solidarity with NFL players who have been protesting police treatment of blacks and social injustice in the U.S. by kneeling, sitting or locking arms through the anthem before games.

Last year, then-San Francisco quarterback Colin Kaepernick started the movement, which has been harshly criticized by President Donald Trump.

"We're no longer living in the 18th century but in the 21st century. There are some people, however, who are not that far ideologically yet," Hertha defender Sebastian Langkamp said. "If we can give some lessons there with that, then that's good."

Ivory Coast forward Salomon Kalou said the whole team was unanimous in its support for the action.

"We stand against racists and that's our way of sharing that. We are always going to fight against this kind of behavior, as a team and as a city," said Kalou, who acknowledged the action was inspired by the American athletes' protest against discrimination.

"It shouldn't exist in any kind of event, in the NFL or in the football world, soccer as they call it there. It shouldn't exist in any sport, period," Kalou said.

Trump's 'Obamacare' move jolts health care, political worlds

By ALAN FRAM and RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's abrupt move to cut off federal payments to insurers jolted America's health care and political worlds alike, threatening to boost premiums for millions, disrupt insurance markets and shove Republicans into a renewed civil war over their efforts to shred "Obamacare."

Defiant Democrats, convinced they have important leverage, promised to press for a bipartisan deal to restore the money by year's end. That drive could split the GOP. On one side: pragmatists seeking to avoid political damage from hurting consumers. On the other: conservatives demanding a major weakening of the Affordable Care Act as the price for returning the money.

"The American people will know exactly where to place the blame," declared Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., all but daring Trump to aggravate what could be a major issue in the 2018 congressional elections.

The money goes to companies for lowering out-of-pocket costs like co-payments and deductibles for low- and middle-income customers. It will cost about \$7 billion this year and help more than 6 million people.

Ending the payments would affect insurers because President Barack Obama's law requires them to reduce their poorer customers' costs. Carriers are likely to recoup the lost money by increasing 2018 premiums for people buying their own health insurance policies.

The National Association of Insurance Commissioners estimates that Trump's move would produce a 12 percent to 15 percent upsurge in premiums, while the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office has put the figure at 20 percent. That's on top of premium increases from growing medical costs.

Medical organizations as well as the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the country's largest business group, joined Saturday in a letter to House and Senate leaders imploring Congress to restore the payments. Without congressional action, the letter said, "millions will face higher premiums, fewer choices, and less access to the medical care they need."

The insurance industry behemoths America's Health Insurance Plans and Blue Cross Blue Shield Association signed the letter, along with the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Family Physicians, the leading hospital associations and more.

Experts say the political instability over Trump's effort to undermine Obama's health care law could also prompt more insurers to leave markets. As Trump frequently points out, next year about half of U.S. counties will have only one insurer on "Obamacare's" online marketplaces, up from the one-third of counties

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with one carrier in 2017.

Trump relished his latest blow against the law he pledged to repeal during his presidential campaign, only to see the effort crash in the GOP-run Senate this summer. He's long derided the subsidies as bailouts to insurers, even though the payments and the cost reductions for consumers are required by law.

The scrapping of subsidies would affect millions more consumers in states won by Trump last year, such as Florida, Alabama and Mississippi, than in states won by Democrat Hillary Clinton. Nearly 70 percent of the 6 million who benefit from the cost-sharing subsidies are in states that voted for the Republican.

"Congress, they forgot what their pledges were," Trump told religious conservative activists Friday, recalling GOP candidates' repeated vows to repeal Obama's law. "So we're going a little different route. But you know what? In the end, it's going to be just as effective, and maybe it will even be better."

He later reiterated his belief that his move would press Democrats to bargain over major changes in the law and said, "There's going to be time to negotiate health care that's going to be good for everybody."

Trump's move was hailed by conservative groups, including Heritage Action for America and Freedom Partners, backed by the Koch brothers. Rallying against it were medical and consumer organizations as well as the chamber.

Nineteen Democratic state attorneys general are suing Trump over the stoppage. Attorneys general from California, Kentucky, Massachusetts and New York were among those who filed the lawsuit in federal court in California to stop Trump's attempt "to gut the health and well-being of our country."

A federal judge has found that Congress never properly approved the payments. The subsidies have continued under Obama and Trump until now, despite prior Trump threats to block them.

Schumer told reporters that Trump's "threats and bullying are not going to work." He said he saw a good chance of forcing money for the cost-sharing reductions into a massive spending bill Congress is expected to approve late this year.

Democrats think Trump would have little clout to block a bipartisan deal, citing support for the payments by some Republicans and polls suggesting the public would fault the GOP for any failure. Some Republicans privately agree.

"Now, President Trump has his fingerprints all over the knife," said Maryland Sen. Chris Van Hollen, who heads Senate Democrats' campaign committee.

In a survey released Friday by the nonpartisan Kaiser Family Foundation, 7 in 10 — , including nearly half of Republicans — said the administration should help Obama's law work, not undermine it. The same foundation conducted an August poll finding 6 in 10 people would blame Trump and the GOP for future health care woes.

Sens. Lamar Alexander, R-Tenn., and Patty Murray, D-Wash., have been seeking a deal that Alexander said in a recent interview would reinstate the payments for two years. He said in exchange, Republicans want "meaningful flexibility for states" to offer lower-cost insurance policies with less coverage than Obama's law mandates.

Republicans are divided over that effort.

Rep. Mark Meadows, R-N.C., who leads the conservative House Freedom Caucus, said in an interview that he's willing to back the payments if they're "part of a transition from Obamacare to something else" with greater state flexibility than Alexander and Murray are discussing. Another conservative leader, Rep. Mark Walker, R-N.C., said "under no circumstance" should the payments be revived.

___ Associated Press writers Ken Thomas and Jill Colvin contributed.

Coffey Park is Ground Zero for California fire devastation

By JONATHAN J. COOPER, Associated Press

SANTA ROSA, Calif. (AP) — The warnings about impending doom came suddenly and in different ways. Frantic pounding on doors. Blaring fire alarms. Commotion outside windows.

Awakened from a deep slumber in the dead of night, bleary-eyed residents of the Coffey Park neighborhood peeked outside and saw hell: burning debris raining down, smoke so thick it was hard to see or

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breathe and an encroaching wall of flame.

"From a distance you could just see red. And hear nothing but explosions," said Dan Hageman, a 49-year-old construction worker. Hageman quickly sprayed down his house and yard, then fled with his wife. His home was one of the few that survived.

Coffey Park, a square mile of middle-class homes and friendly neighbors on the northern edge of Santa Rosa, was among the hardest hit areas from the series of wildfires that broke out Oct. 8 in Northern California. Dozens died, and thousands of homes were destroyed, 2,800 alone from the Tubbs Fire that scorched Santa Rosa.

Fueled by fierce winds, the flames chewed up hillsides, jumped over a six-lane highway and sent thousands fleeing for their lives. Many had nothing but the clothes they wore, leaving behind all their possessions and a lifetime of mementos.

At least two of the dead were killed in Coffey Park — a number that could rise once authorities sift through ash to see if there are bone fragments, teeth, medical devices or anything else that could identify human remains.

According to survivors, the fire hit Coffey Park when flaming embers blew across U.S. Highway 101 and ignited the businesses and homes around Hopper Avenue. From there, it jumped from house to house.

When Andrew Ziegler, 46, saw flames outside windows, he scrambled to gather his 8-month-old dog while praying the power would stay on long enough for him to raise the garage door.

"I had a puppy that wouldn't listen and I'm in a wheelchair," Ziegler said. "I figured the best thing to do was not be a burden on someone else, get the hell out of here."

Several blocks away, Wayne Sims was becoming an amateur firefighter in a harrowing fight that saved his home.

Awakened by smoke, the 62-year-old stepped outside to investigate. His neighbor across the street jumped in his car and came back to report that the fire had jumped the freeway. Sims sent his wife and cat away and did his best to spray down the home with a garden hose.

Down the street, he spotted a CalFire crew spraying water on a blazing home.

"I said: 'You guys gotta come over here. That one's gone. You can save my house. Come and save my house,'" Sims said. "I was begging them. And they did. They came down here."

Sims convinced the firefighters to give him their hose, so he sprayed down his own home and his neighbor's — using the water pressure to knock down his flaming back fence so he'd have a way to escape — while the pros moved down the street. They saved much of the cul de sac.

But by the time the sun came up Monday morning, most of Coffey Park was gone, replaced by a hellscape that looked more like a war zone than a suburban neighborhood.

Houses were reduced to smoking piles of ash, leaving a thick cloud of smoke that burned the eyes and lungs. Orange flames spewed from broken gas lines. Vehicles were melted, their make and model indiscernible. A few were overturned, apparently when their gas tanks exploded and launched them into the air.

And in the street were snaking yellow hoses, some still connected to blue-and-white hydrants, abandoned by overwhelmed firefighters forced to give up and flee.

Monday was trash day in northern Santa Rosa, and the streets of Coffey Park are dotted with gray and blue trash cans left out the night before. Some melted, leaving behind a pile of recyclables in the street.

But many somehow survived. When their owners return to destroyed homes, all they'll recognize is the trash they threw out before running for their lives.

People who live in remote forested corners of the West accept the risk of wildfires as a fact of life. But Coffey Park is not in the forest. It's a suburban neighborhood where plumbers, painters, nurses and small-business owners made their home in two- to four-bedroom houses built mostly in the 1980s.

Recent home sales were around \$400,000 to \$500,000, below the median home price for Santa Rosa, a city of 175,000 that is the largest in the world-renowned wine region of Napa and Sonoma counties north of San Francisco. Mayor Chris Coursey said the city lost 5 percent of its housing stock and suffered at least \$1.2 billion in damage.

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Residents of Coffey Park say it is a special place.

"You walk down the street, everybody says hi to you," said Anna Brooner, 57, the original owner of her home built in 1988.

Leslie Garnica, a 17-year-old high school senior who was born and raised in Coffey Park, liked to open her blinds and window so she could see the three palm trees in her front yard as she lay in bed and listened to music.

"This is all I've ever known, and it's kind of weird knowing that you have to start again, find something new," Garnica said. "This is what I'm used to. But I don't have it anymore."

Trump leaves Republicans with heavy lift on Iran deal

By RICHARD LARDNER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republicans demanded a major say on the Iran nuclear agreement two years ago and never got it from Democrat Barack Obama. Now that President Donald Trump has directed Congress to make the international pact more stringent, the GOP is finding that having that voice won't be easy.

Republicans will have to win over skeptical Democrats and key allies in Europe who are wary of altering the accord that they believe has prevented Iran from assembling an arsenal of atomic weapons in exchange for lifting economic sanctions. Republican leaders also may face resistance from members of their own party.

Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., a member of the Foreign Relations Committee, said Friday he'll reserve judgment on any legislation but has "serious doubts about whether it is even possible to fix such a dangerously flawed agreement."

Trump on Friday angrily accused Iran of violating the spirit of the nuclear deal that was forged with the U.S. and other world powers in 2015, blaming Tehran for a litany of malign behavior and hitting its main military wing with anti-terrorism sanctions. But the president, breaking with a campaign pledge to rip up the agreement, said he was not yet ready to pull the U.S. out or re-impose nuclear sanctions.

Instead he kicked the issue to Congress and told them to toughen the law.

Taking the lead will be the Republican whom Trump has been feuding with — Sen. Bob Corker, R-Tenn., the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee. Trump belittled Corker this past week with a series of tweets and erroneously blamed the senator, who will retire at the end of next year, for the original Iran deal. Corker dubbed the White House an "adult day care center" and charged that Trump could be setting the nation on the path to world war.

Corker, in a conference call with reporters on Friday, focused on perhaps the most significant task of his chairmanship and didn't address the bitter back and forth with Trump.

He previewed the main elements of legislation he is developing with Sen. Tom Cotton, R-Ark., a national security hawk who has echoed Trump's more confrontational approach toward Iran, to toughen the nuclear accord and the law governing U.S. participation in the deal.

"Over the last several months, we have been working closely with the State Department, National Security Council and Senator Cotton to develop a legislative strategy to address bipartisan concerns about the (Iran deal) without violating U.S. commitments," Corker said in a statement.

On the call, Corker promised an open legislative process.

"You're going to see all this evolve in daylight," he said, adding that the bill could be introduced in the next two weeks.

The legislation would amend a two-year-old law that allowed Congress to review the accord. It would reduce from four to two the number of times a year Trump is required to certify to Congress that Iran is complying with the terms of the agreement.

It would also rid the deal of sunset provisions, which expire after predetermined periods of time. The provisions relate to enriching uranium to levels near those needed to produce the fuel for a nuclear weapon, as well as other activities that limit Iran's atomic capabilities at various sites. The bill would propose a mechanism to automatically restore the prior U.S. sanctions if Iran gets within a year of acquiring

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a nuclear weapon.

The emerging bill also would give the International Atomic Energy Agency greater power to verify that Iran is complying with the deal.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., welcomed Trump's decision and cast it as an opportunity for Congress to strengthen the law it passed in 2015 and "create a standard for certification that is consistent with our interests."

Democrats condemned Trump's announcement and criticized him for punting presidential responsibilities to Congress just as he did on health care and extending protection from deportation for young immigrants known as "Dreamers."

Sen. Ben Cardin of Maryland, the top ranking Democrat on the Foreign Relations Committee, issued a sharply worded statement that called Trump's move a "reckless, political decision" that put U.S. national security at risk. He said the president and his Cabinet should be principally in charge of addressing concerns about the Iran deal.

"Instead, he is abdicating his leadership role to Congress, just like with Dreamers and just like with affirming and strengthening our health care system," said Cardin, who opposed the nuclear deal two years ago but is now opposed to ditching the pact. "It is a troubling pattern. We will not buy into the false premise that it is Congress' role to legislate solutions to problems of his own making."

House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., called Trump's move a "grave mistake."

Without changes, Trump warned, he would probably pull the U.S. out of the deal — which he has called the worst in U.S. history — and snap previously lifted sanctions back into place.

___ Follow Richard Lardner on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/rplardner>

Spy, temptress, victim? Mata Hari still eludes definition

By RAF CASERT, Associated Press

LEEWARDEN, Netherlands (AP) — A century ago on Sunday, an exotic dancer named Mata Hari was executed by a French firing squad, condemned as a sultry Dutch double agent who supposedly caused the deaths of thousands of soldiers during World War I.

Her life and death became fodder almost overnight for one of the greatest spy stories of all time — featuring an alluring temptress who could dance, dazzle and draw secrets from the hapless military men unable to resist her.

Increasingly, though, Mata Hari — the stage name adopted by Margaretha Zelle — is also being reinterpreted as a victim of a time when a sexually liberated woman with artistic ambitions faced harsh judgment.

The irony is not missed on Yves Rocourt, curator of "Mata Hari. The Myth and the Maiden," an exhibit opening this weekend in Leeuwarden, the Dutch town where Zelle was born in 1876.

"Unfortunately, issues like money and having to sleep with someone in a position of power to achieve something are not time-related," Rocourt said.

"You cannot help but think about what is going in Hollywood at this very moment," said Julie Wheelwright, author of the biography "The Fatal Lover." "All these allegations that are coming out now and you just wonder, 'But what's changed in 100 years?' Not much."

On a canal close to her childhood home, where vicious winds and icy temperatures can freeze the water for months, a statue erected in 1976 shows Mata Hari in her typical stage regalia. Dressed in little more than pearls and veils, she stands with legs apart and arms outstretched, ready to take on the world.

How she got to the glittering salons and theaters of Paris and Berlin before ending up in front of a firing squad was due to desperation as much as boldness.

Her comfortable youth was disrupted when her father went broke and her mother died. At age 18, she answered an ad placed by an aristocrat military officer seeking a wife. Soon, she was living in the Dutch East Indies, in what is now Indonesia.

The couple had two children despite her husband's violence and unfaithfulness and Margaretha's own fiery, flirtatious personality. After their son died, the marriage disintegrated and her ex-husband refused to

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pay alimony. Zelle, facing being a single mother without financial support, gave up custody of her daughter and in 1903 left for Paris, where she reinvented herself.

"I am tired of struggling against life," she wrote. The choice she saw was to "be a decent mother or live life as it is dazzlingly offered to me here."

Lourens Oldersma, who edited a book of Mata Hari's letters published late last year, said "she evolved from being a flirt into the woman that started living this loose, decadent life."

Building a dance repertoire on the sensuous temple dances she had observed in Asia, Mata Hari had her breakthrough performance at the Paris Musee Guimet on March 13, 1905. She soon became a sensation across Europe.

But the brilliant life she envisioned was expensive to maintain, especially as she got older and her popularity as an exotic dancer declined. When World War I broke out, she used her passport from a neutral country to continue traveling and took wealthy, well-connected lovers from all sides of the conflict.

The promise of a steady supply of francs to support herself persuaded Zelle to accept an offer to spy, first for Germany and then for France.

"She thought that spying was just another role. It was another kind of performance," Wheelwright said. "She was very naive."

French intelligence eventually intercepted a German telegram discussing the work of an agent codenamed H-21. The details revealed Mata Hari as a double agent two-timing France. She was arrested while having breakfast in her suite at the Elysee Palace Hotel.

During 16 interrogation sessions, she cracked and admitted to working for the Germans. At 41, she was shot at a military ground close to Paris at dawn on Oct. 15, 1917.

The rest is history — and an awful lot of books and movies, including one starring Greta Garbo. Mata Hari's story ebbs and flows with the mood of the times and geography.

"When I was talking to people in France, even until quite recently, their view was very much more that 'Here was this decadent woman who was responsible for all these deaths, so why should we feel any sympathy for her?'" Wheelwright said.

In the Netherlands, there was more ambivalence.

"They stressed more the spy story and the exotic dancer rather than the fact she was a decadent woman," Oldersma said in front of the Mara Hari statue as it was being restored for the commemorations.

With the publication of his book last year, "people started realizing that, yes, this is also a mother, and she had to go through a fight," he said.

Still, the question of who Mata Hari really was defies easy answers. One year she refused to pose naked for a painter, the next she slept with men for money. The verdict on whether the secrets she gained from her lovers' lips' doomed thousands of young Allied soldiers continues to be debated but seems increasingly unlikely.

"There is a kind of paradoxical thing going on," Wheelwright said. "On the one hand, she is very vulnerable. But then on the other hand, she's also got a sense of manipulating people."

The mystery of Mata Hari still confounds Rocourt, the exhibit curator.

"The truth is very complex," he said. "I don't know what the truth is."

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Sunday, Oct. 15, the 288th day of 2017. There are 77 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 15, 1917, Dutch exotic dancer Mata Hari (Margaretha ZelleGeertruida MacLeod), 41, convicted by a French military court of spying for the Germans, was executed by a firing squad outside Paris. (Maintaining her innocence to the end, Mata Hari refused a blindfold and blew a kiss to her executioners.)

On this date:

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In 1783, the first manned balloon flight took place in Paris as Jean-Francois Pilatre de Rozier ascended in a basket attached to a tethered Montgolfier hot-air balloon, rising to about 75 feet.

In 1815, Napoleon Bonaparte, the deposed Emperor of the French, arrived on the British-ruled South Atlantic island of St. Helena, where he spent the last 5 1/2 years of his life in exile.

In 1905, Claude Debussy's "La Mer" (The Sea), a trio of symphonic sketches, premiered in Paris.

In 1914, the Clayton Antitrust Act, which expanded on the Sherman Antitrust Act of 1890, was signed into law by President Woodrow Wilson.

In 1937, the Ernest Hemingway novel "To Have and Have Not" was first published by Charles Scribner's Sons.

In 1945, the former premier of Vichy France, Pierre Laval, was executed for treason.

In 1946, Nazi war criminal Hermann Goering (GEH'-reeng) fatally poisoned himself hours before he was to have been executed.

In 1966, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed a bill creating the U.S. Department of Transportation. The revolutionary Black Panther Party was founded by Huey Newton and Bobby Seale in Oakland, California.

In 1976, in the first debate of its kind between vice-presidential nominees, Democrat Walter F. Mondale and Republican Bob Dole faced off in Houston.

In 1989, South African officials released eight prominent political prisoners, including Walter Sisulu.

In 1991, despite sexual harassment allegations by Anita Hill, the Senate narrowly confirmed the nomination of Clarence Thomas to the U.S. Supreme Court, 52-48.

In 1997, British Royal Air Force pilot Andy Green twice drove a jet-powered car in the Nevada desert faster than the speed of sound, officially shattering the world's land-speed record. NASA's plutonium-powered Cassini spacecraft rocketed flawlessly toward Saturn.

Ten years ago: Americans Leonid Hurwicz, Eric S. Maskin and Roger B. Myerson won the Nobel economics prize for their work on "mechanism design theory." The Colorado Rockies beat the Arizona Diamondbacks 6-4 in Game 4 to sweep the NL championship series and advance to the World Series for the first time in franchise history.

Five years ago: Former pro wrestler Hulk Hogan sued the news and gossip website Gawker for posting a sex tape of him online. (Hogan won a \$140 million verdict against Gawker, which ended up settling for \$31 million in a legal fight that led to the media company's bankruptcy.) The San Francisco Giants evened the National League Championship series 1-1 with a 7-1 win over the St. Louis Cardinals.

One year ago: Republican Donald Trump sought to undermine the legitimacy of the U.S. presidential election, pressing unsubstantiated claims that the contest was "rigged" against him. Secretary of State John Kerry announced that Yemen's Houthi (HOO'-thee) rebels had released two U.S. citizens as part of a complicated diplomatic arrangement. The Cleveland Indians edged the Toronto Blue Jays 2-1 in Game 2 of the American League Championship Series. The Chicago Cubs beat the Los Angeles Dodgers 8-4 in Game 1 of the NLCS.

Today's Birthdays: Former auto executive Lee Iacocca is 93. Jazz musician Freddy Cole is 86. Singer Barry McGuire is 82. Actress Linda Lavin is 80. Rock musician Don Stevenson (Moby Grape) is 75. Actress-director Penny Marshall is 74. Baseball Hall of Famer Jim Palmer is 72. Singer-musician Richard Carpenter is 71. Actor Victor Banerjee is 71. Former tennis player Roscoe Tanner is 66. Singer Tito Jackson is 64. Actor-comedian Larry Miller is 64. Actor Jere Burns is 63. Actress Tanya Roberts is 62. Movie director Mira Nair is 60. Britain's Duchess of York, Sarah Ferguson, is 58. Chef Emeril Lagasse is 58. Rock musician Mark Reznicek (REHZ'-nih-chehk) is 55. Singer Eric Benet is 51. Actress Vanessa Marcil is 49. Singer-actress-TV host Paige Davis is 48. Country singer Kimberly Schlapman (Little Big Town) is 48. Actor Dominic West is 48. Rhythm-and-blues singer Ginuwine is 47. Actor Devon Gummersall is 39. Actor Chris Olivero is 38. Christian singer-actress Jaci (JAK'-ee) Velasquez is 38. Actor Brandon Jay McLaren is 37. Rhythm-and-blues singer Keyshia Cole is 36. Tennis player Elena Dementieva is 36. Actor Vincent Martella is 25. Actress Bailee Madison is 18.

Thought for Today: "We used to do things for posterity, now we do things for ourselves and leave the bill to posterity." — Author unknown.