

# Groton Daily Independent

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## Tuesday, March 29

School Breakfast: Breakfast bagel, fruit, juice, milk.

School Lunch: Hot dogs, baked beans, broccoli, fruit.

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

Birthdays: Alexander Kern, Darcy Albrecht, Sharon Wheeting, Tyrel Telkamp

10:00am: United Methodist Women's Bible Study

5:00pm: School Board Meeting

## Wednesday, March 30

School Breakfast: Cinnamon roll, yogurt, fruit, juice, milk.

School Lunch: Chicken strips, tri taters, carrots, fruit.

Senior Menu: Creamed chicken, buttermilk biscuit, peas, Mandarin oranges, peanut butter cookie

Birthdays: Bonnie Cooper, Gordon Nelson, Jessica Osterman, Lori Seelye, Melenie Sombke, Sandy Tullis, Taylor Schmidt, Vickie Sippel

7:00am: United Methodist Men's Bible Study

12:00pm: Kiwanis meets at the Community Center

6:30pm: Emmanuel Lutheran League (no confirmation)

## Thursday, March 31

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

School Lunch: BBQ, French fries, romaine lettuce, fruit.

Senior Menu: Turkey chow mein, rice, chow mein noodles, broccoli, bread sticks, sour cream apple pie square

Birthdays: Abby Cutler, Aiden Strom, Barb Waage, Brett Sombke, Caralee Heitmann, Megan Cutler,

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

## The cardboard/paper

recycling trailer at the school is **Closed**

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## Dakota Brush

Brooms, Brushes, Mops, Can Liners, Paper Products.

Get Ready for Spring With  
Wash Brushes & Squeegees

**397-9337**

104 N. Main, Groton

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## Kjellsen to resign as Boys' Basketball Coach

Coach Greg Kjellsen will be turning in his resignation tonight at the school board meeting as Groton's Boys' head basketball coach. He has been coaching in Groton for 29 years. Last night, wrote the following on his Facebook page:

Made one of the toughest decisions I've ever had to this past week. After being a head basketball coach for 31 years, and the last 29 at Groton, I've decided to step down. I've thoroughly enjoyed every minute of it. The relationships I've built with these athletes will never be forgotten. It is the best job anyone can have. Watching boys develop into young men and athletes is probably my biggest thrill. I hope they learned half as much from me as I learned from them. After the thousands of miles I rode on those yellow school busses, that's one thing I won't miss.

## Dollar General Store given thumbs down

The Groton Planning and Zoning Commission held its second hearing on the proposed Dollar General Store in Groton. The location was along US 12 on the east side of Main Street. A large crowd was on hand for the hearing at the Groton Community Center.

The event was Livestreamed by [gdilive.com](http://gdilive.com); however, the internet connection proved unsatisfactory. The meeting was recorded and has been uploaded to our YouTube page at <https://youtu.be/fU5VOY-RMao>. There were 268 views on the Livestream and already 27 on the YouTube site.

Several people gave testimony at the hearing. Some members of the audience walked out while Doug Sombke was talking.

After listening to the testimony, the commission voted 3-2 to turn down the special exception for the Dollar General store. Tyke Nyberg and Gordon Nelson voted in favor of it and Jeff Steen, Chris Kahli and Les Hinds voted against it.

It was mentioned by a couple of different people that Groton will be getting a Dollar General store, one way or another. The developer of the building, Tyler Oliver, did not confirm that possibility.

**City of Columbia has opening for city finance officer and city maintenance worker. Call at 396-2655 apply before April 4th application deadline.**

**Come and go bridal shower for Sarah Geary, bride-to-be of Sam Thorson, Saturday, April 23, 10 a.m., St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church, Groton. The couple is registered at Bed Bath and Beyond and at Target.**

golden living

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**Avera** Health Plans

**for out patient therapy.**

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

## Handiman looking for work

I can do almost anything from building whatever you need, repairing machinery, welding, flooring, installing windows and doors. If you're looking for work to be done around the home or farm, I'm your guy. Call me at 605/228-4172.

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## South Dakota Pump Prices Take a Breather after Double Digit Climbs

The average price for self-serve regular gasoline across South Dakota stands at \$2.012 per gallon, 37 cents above the price on Feb. 15 and 2 cents above the price one week ago, AAA reports.

"The nationwide pump price average is still rising but the prices in South Dakota have only risen slightly," said Marilyn Buskohl, spokeswoman for AAA South Dakota. "However, nobody knows if prices will continue to trend lower or if this is just a short intermission in the climb of gas prices. Many refineries are still conducting seasonal maintenance, which has led to a decline in fuel production, plus demand is up. Both of these factors point to higher retail prices."

	Today	Last Week	Change	Feb. 22	Change	Last year
<b>Aberdeen</b>	\$2.008	\$2.025	-\$0.017	\$1.813	\$0.195	\$2.385
<b>Brookings</b>	\$2.074	\$2.022	\$0.052	\$1.826	\$0.248	\$2.449
<b>Huron</b>	\$2.110	\$1.998	\$0.112	\$1.894	\$0.216	\$2.419
<b>Mitchell</b>	\$2.051	\$1.945	\$0.106	\$1.812	\$0.239	\$2.202
<b>Pierre</b>	\$2.069	\$2.069	\$0.000	\$1.942	\$0.127	\$2.563
<b>Rapid City</b>	\$1.909	\$1.881	\$0.028	\$1.822	\$0.087	\$2.237
<b>Sioux Falls</b>	\$1.982	\$1.956	\$0.026	\$1.784	\$0.198	\$2.308
<b>Vermillion</b>	\$2.113	\$1.849	\$0.264	\$1.713	\$0.400	\$2.349
<b>Watertown</b>	\$2.066	\$2.105	-\$0.039	\$1.886	\$0.180	\$2.360
<b>Yankton</b>	\$2.051	\$2.055	-\$0.004	\$1.827	\$0.224	\$2.381
<b>South Dakota</b>	\$2.012	\$1.986	\$0.026	\$1.806	\$0.206	\$2.362

According to FuelGaugeReport.AAA.com, the national average price of gas climbed above \$2 per gallon last Thursday for the first time in 2016, and the average U.S. price has increased for 21 consecutive days. Today's average of \$2.04 per gallon is up six cents on the week and 30 cents for the month. Despite the recent increase, average gas prices remain 39 cents per gallon less than a year ago.

Questions about future supply and demand have contributed to the global oil market's overall volatility. As a result, the global price of crude oil continues to seesaw on each day's news headlines. Many traders are focused on the upcoming meeting between the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and non-OPEC producers scheduled for April 17. Despite ongoing talks, analysts are skeptical about the prospects for reductions or freezes in production, and, as a result, crude oil prices will likely remain volatile.

West Texas Intermediate crude oil opened the week trading a bit higher, following a week of fluctuating prices due to news of increasing crude oil inventories balanced against reports of falling rig counts in the United States. The NYMEX was closed on Friday in observance of Good Friday, and WTI closed out Thursday's formal trading session on the NYMEX down 33 cents and settled at \$39.46 per barrel.

California (\$2.77) remains the nation's most expensive market for retail gasoline, and inventories in the state reportedly fell to an 11-week low due to ongoing refinery challenges and increased demand. Consumers in second-place Hawaii (\$2.56) are paying 21 cents per gallon less than the market leader, and regional neighbors Nevada (\$2.41), Alaska (\$2.29) and Washington (\$2.28) round out the top five most expensive markets for gas.

Retail averages in the vast majority of states are higher on the week, with drivers in 28 states and Washington, D.C. paying a nickel or more per gallon at the pump versus one week ago. Gas prices are up double digits in five states with the largest weekly increases experienced by motorists in Arizona (+14 cents), New Hampshire (+11 cents), Massachusetts (+11 cents) and Connecticut (+11 cents).

Motorists can find current gas prices along their route with the free AAA Mobile app for iPhone, iPad and Android. The app can also be used to map a route, find discounts, book a hotel and access AAA roadside assistance. Learn more at [AAA.com/mobile](http://AAA.com/mobile).

## Today in Weather History

March 29, 1982: An early season Tornado briefly touched down at Swett, South Dakota (11 miles west of Martin). The tornado overturned and heavily damaged a mobile home. One person was slightly injured and another barely escaped injury, as he left the trailer just seconds before the storm struck.

March 29, 1998: A supercell thunderstorm produced 13 tornadoes across southern Minnesota. The strongest tornado was an F4. Two people died during this tornado event.

1848: Niagara Falls eased to a trickle during the late afternoon and then became "silent" for 30 hours. Most people noticed the silence on the morning of the 30th. This is the only time in recorded history that both falls stopped flowing. An ice jam at the neck of Lake Erie and the Niagara River entrance between Fort Erie, Ontario Canada, and Buffalo, NY, was caused by the wind, waves, and lake currents. People even ventured into the gorge, discovering relics like weapons from War of 1812.

1886: Rainfall amounts of 6-12 inches occurred over northwest Georgia in a 3-day period from March 29 through April 2. This caused record flooding on the Oostanaula and Etowah Rivers that merge to form the Coosa River. Floodwaters up to 11 feet deep covered portions of Broad Street in Rome with extensive record flooding. The stage height reached 40.3 feet. Flood stage is 25 feet. This record flood and another major flood in 1892 prompted the citizens of Rome to raise the town by 12 feet. This was accomplished by bringing in thousands of wagon loads of dirt. An official rainfall amount of 7.36 inches was recorded on this day in Atlanta. The 7.36 inches is the most Atlanta has seen in one day since record keeping began in 1878.

1942: A slow-moving low-pressure system brought 11.5 inches of snow to the nation's capital on March 29, 1942. It still stands as the highest March snowfall on record in Washington, D.C. on a single calendar day. In addition, Baltimore, Maryland recorded a very impressive total of 21.9 inches of snow on the same day. On the flip side, eight days later, the temperature in D.C. soared to 92 degrees on April 6, 1942, and it remains the highest temperature on record for April 6.

2007: If thunder is heard, one should go to a lightning safe area. A high school athlete was struck and killed by lightning at a track meet in Carbondale, Illinois. A bolt or 2 had been seen miles away, and a distant rumble of thunder was heard before the fatal strike.



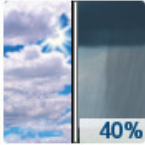






### Findings report to be given March 29th

Representatives from Foster, Jacobs, and Johnson, Inc. will be hosting a public meeting on Tuesday, March 29th at 7:00 PM in the Groton Area High School computer lab to share the findings of their Values Definition and Educational Adequacy studies completed as part of the Groton Area School Board's long-range planning commitment. All members of the public are invited to attend.

[gdilive.com](http://gdilive.com)

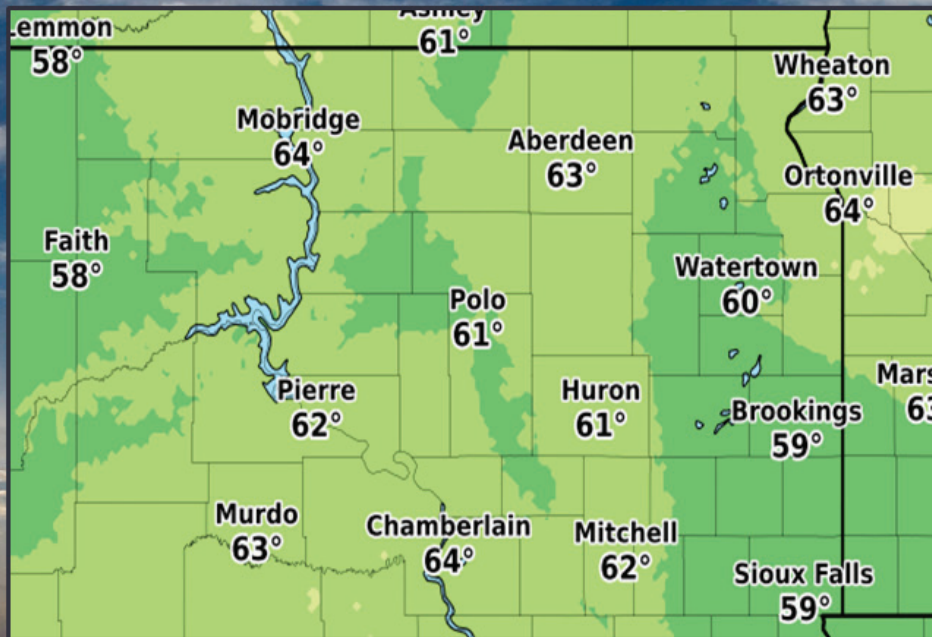
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Today	Tonight	Wednesday	Wednesday Night	Thursday	Thursday Night	Friday
 40%	 80%	 60%		 40% 40%	 20% 20%	
Partly Sunny then Chance Showers and Breezy	Rain	Rain Likely and Breezy	Mostly Cloudy and Blustery then Mostly Cloudy	Chance Rain/Snow then Chance Rain and Breezy	Slight Chance Rain/Snow then Slight Chance Snow	Mostly Sunny
High: 63 °F	Low: 41 °F	High: 47 °F	Low: 29 °F	High: 45 °F	Low: 24 °F	High: 43 °F



## Mild Again Today Breezy Winds, Showers Developing



**Today**  
**Dry, mild & breezy early**  
**Showers develop afternoon/overnight**

**Wednesday**  
**Colder**  
**Occasional rain, rain/snow mix west**  
**Windy**



[weather.gov/Aberdeen](http://weather.gov/Aberdeen)



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen

3/29/2016 5:46 AM

Published on: 03/29/2016 at 5:49 AM

Mild air will remain in place again today out ahead of an approaching low pressure system. Highs will generally be in the lower 60s with breezy southeast winds. Showers are expected to develop this afternoon over portions of northeast South Dakota. Rainfall will become more widespread overnight and during the morning hours on Wednesday as low pressure moves east into the Plains. It will be cold enough for snow across portions of central and especially western South Dakota.

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## Yesterday's Weather

**High:** 62.4 at 4:35 PM

**Low:** 28.8 at 6:21 AM

**High Gust:** 24 at 3:36 PM

Precip: 0.00

## Today's Info

**Record High:** 82° in 1946

**Record Low:** -10 in 1913

**Average High:** 46°F

**Average Low:** 25°F

**Average Precip in March.:** 1.01

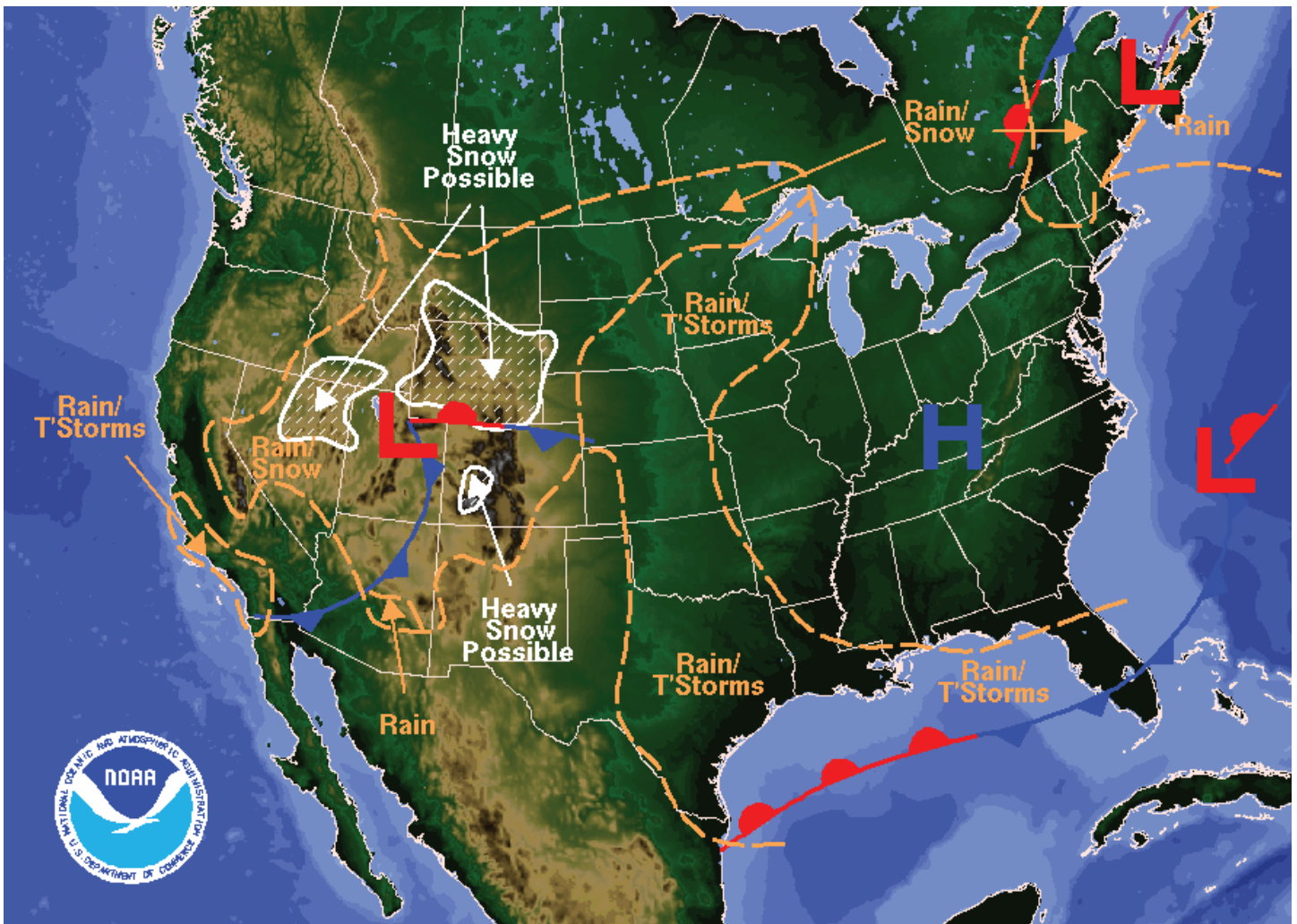
**Precip to date in March.:** 0.35

**Average Precip to date:** 2.03

**Precip Year to Date:** 0.95

**Sunset Tonight:** 7:57 p.m.

**Sunrise Tomorrow:** 7:18 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Tue, Mar 29, 2016, issued 4:34 AM EDT  
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center  
Prepared by McCreynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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## DIAMONDS FROM A DUNGEON

His family must have spent a fortune on his education. He studied under the greatest teachers of his day. He was thoroughly trained in law. Became a well-recognized warrior. Traveled extensively. Enjoyed athletic competition so much that he knew all the rules and measures used to evaluate athletes. One day God spoke to him in a dramatic way and his life was changed forever. He put his complete trust in God and decided to follow Him to the ends of the earth. Eventually, things changed. Life did not become easy for him, but difficult. As a result of his obedience, he suffered shipwrecks and stoning. He faced death from maddening mobs and whips that lashed his body. Even though he was thrown into prison, his spirit was never shattered nor his faith flawed.

How did Paul endure these hardships? He turned his dungeon into a mine of diamonds. He wrote some of the world's finest letters, inspired early church leaders, formed the theological foundation of Christianity and endured hardships as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

It was while he was in prison that he wrote, "We know that all things work together for good."

**Prayer:** Father, help me to find Your comfort in conflict, Your solace in sorrow and Your encouragement in times of discouragement: in Jesus' name. Amen.

**Scripture for Today:** Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

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News from the  Associated Press

## USD women to host Oregon on Wednesday in semifinals of WNIT

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — The University of South Dakota women's basketball team will host Oregon in the semifinals of the Women's National Invitation Tournament.

USD beat Western Kentucky 68-54 on Sunday night to advance to the final four of the WNIT. Oregon beat UTEP 71-67 on Monday night to also advance.

The USD-Oregon matchup is set for 7 p.m. Wednesday at the DakotaDome in Vermillion. The winner will play either Michigan or Florida Gulf Coast for the championship on Saturday.

The Coyotes have won 20 of their last 21 games. .

## South Dakota elderly and disabled face tax relief deadline

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Elderly and disabled South Dakota residents have until Friday to apply for property tax relief.

The state's Department of Revenue is reminding homeowners to submit their application by the deadline in order to receive assistance through South Dakota's Assessment Freeze for the Elderly and Disabled Program.

Under the program, a homeowner's property assessment can be prevented from increasing for tax purposes. Therefore, if the actual value of the home increases, the homeowner would still pay property taxes on the former value.

Individuals must meet a number of requirements to participate in the assessment freeze program. The requirements include being at least 65 years old or disabled as defined by the Social Security Act and having an income of less than \$27,423.54 for a single-member household.

Applications can be found on the department's website.

## Lawmakers returning to Pierre for final day of 2016 session

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Lawmakers are set to return to the state Capitol in Pierre to consider bills vetoed by Gov. Dennis Daugaard.

The final day of the 2016 legislative session is Tuesday. Lawmakers will consider three outright vetoes and weigh style-and-form vetoes of two other measures.

Among the bills that Daugaard vetoed is a plan that would offer a property tax incentive to put in buffer strips between cropland and waterways. Supporters say they hope the rejection can be overridden.

Daugaard said in his veto message that he's concerned in part that it would shift the property tax burden from people who took advantage of the plan onto other property owners.

Legislators in both chambers approved the buffer strip bill with margins that suggest Daugaard's veto may be overcome.

## Man will serve 16 years in prison for 2014 Bismarck murder

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — A man who pleaded guilty to murder in Bismarck will spend 16 years in prison. Mark Butts was handed a 20-year sentence with four years suspended Monday. Butts pleaded guilty to a lower-level felony murder charge in January, and later unsuccessfully tried to withdraw his plea.

Butts is accused of stabbing 57-year-old Mississippi resident Richard Glover to death in a car in December 2014. Authorities say Glover died after suffering from more than a dozen stab wounds. Police found Glover's body on the street next to the car.

Butts again tried to withdraw his plea on Monday saying he was pressured by his previous attorneys into pleading guilty.

Judge Bruce Haskell, however, told Butts he was aware of his rights when he entered the plea.

Court documents list Butts's address as Rapid City, South Dakota.



## Judge lifts decade-old injunction against hemp farmer

DAVE KOLPACK, Associated Press

FARGO, N.D. (AP) — A federal judge on Monday lifted a decade-old injunction prohibiting a South Dakota tribal member from producing industrial hemp, although other issues need to be resolved before he can grow it on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.

U.S. District Judge Jeffrey Viken of South Dakota said there has been a “shifting legal landscape” since the 2004 order was filed against Alex White Plume, an enrolled member of the Oglala Sioux Tribe. That includes a change in hemp laws in the 2014 farm bill and legalization of marijuana in some states.

White Plume’s lawyer, former U.S. attorney from North Dakota Timothy Purdon, said the order is a victory for both White Plume and tribal sovereignty.

“This order brings some justice to Native America’s first modern day hemp farmer,” Purdon said. “For over 10 years, Alex White Plume has been subject to a one-of-a-kind injunction which prevented him from farming hemp.”

Federal prosecutors in South Dakota could not be reached for comment.

The order does not resolve the ongoing question of whether cultivation of hemp on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, in southwestern South Dakota, should be legal. Purdon said Viken’s order should further the discussion on whether the Oglala tribe is being treated unfairly under a farm bill that allows states to produce hemp under certain circumstances.

Hemp can be used to make clothing, lotion and many other products, but growing it has been illegal under federal law because it is a type of cannabis plant and looks like marijuana. The White Plume family, including Alex and his brother, Percy, planted hemp on the reservation for three years from 2000 through 2002, but never harvested a crop. Federal agents conducted raids and cut down the plants each year.

Viken said the key to his opinion is the “shifting national focus” on industrial hemp as a viable agricultural crop and the decision by the U.S. attorney general to open dialogue with several tribes regarding the farm bill and a 2013 federal memo that outlined the federal government’s priorities in pursuing marijuana cases.

## Prehistoric Indian Village opening renovated museum Friday

MITCHELL, S.D. (AP) — The Prehistoric Indian Village in Mitchell is opening its remodeled Boehnen Memorial Museum on Friday.

The renovation began in the fall of 2014. It includes a new audio-visual technology wing, exhibits, gift shop, lighting and a newly configured entrance. A large teaching garden also has been added to the museum’s grounds.

Village Executive Director Cindy Gregg says the project will give visitors an expanded educational experience.

The site is a 1,000 year-old Native American village being excavated each summer by students from the University of Exeter in England and Augustana University in Sioux Falls. It’s the only active archaeological site open to the public in South Dakota.

## AG clears officer who shot man near Rapid City shelter

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Attorney General Marty Jackley says the Rapid City police officer who shot a man while responding to the report of a shooting was justified in firing his weapon.

A report released Monday says Officer Barry Young discharged his rifle three times, striking 44-year old Rapid City resident Earl Hicks one time during the incident in the afternoon of Feb. 28 near a homeless shelter.

The report says Young shot Hicks after Hicks disregarded orders to drop his weapon in his right hand and began to raise it.

Hicks was pronounced dead at a hospital shortly after the incident outside the Cornerstone Rescue Mission.

The report says the person whom Hicks shot in the chest has recovered.

Young was placed on leave while the state investigated the shooting.

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## **Police: Bullet grazed man's head during Sioux Falls shooting**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A shooting over the weekend at a Sioux Falls home could have had a tragic ending.

Sioux Falls Police spokesman Sam Clemens says a bullet that pierced one of the home's upstairs windows Saturday night grazed a man's head. Clemens says the 31-year-old man felt the bullet go through his hair.

Three people were at the home when the incident happened just around 10:15 p.m. Saturday. Clemens says the man does not know why someone would shoot at his home.

Police are still searching for a motive and the person who fired the gun. Clemens says police found the bullet inside the home and a shell casing outside.

Clemens says the department is "fortunate that (the) victim was not injured seriously or even killed" in the incident.

## **South Dakota man dies in crash on Lake Traverse Reservation**

SISSETON, S.D. (AP) — An 18-year-old South Dakota man is dead following a rollover crash on the Lake Traverse Indian Reservation.

The South Dakota Highway Patrol says the Waubay resident was pronounced dead at the scene of the crash that happened Sunday morning on Roberts County Highway 28 in northeast South Dakota.

The Highway Patrol says the driver lost control of the car, which then went into the ditch and rolled.

A 16-year-old boy from Waubay and a 17-year-old girl from Minneapolis were also in the car. They suffered serious non-life threatening injuries and were transported to a hospital in Fargo, North Dakota.

The Highway Patrol did not immediately release the name of the man who died in the crash. The agency says the incident remains under investigation.

## **Woman gets probation for misusing benefits meant for child**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A Mitchell woman has been sentenced to three years of probation for misusing more than \$57,000 in Social Security benefits that were intended for her daughter following the death of the child's father.

U.S. District Judge Karen Schreier also ordered Darla Kay Johnson to pay nearly \$40,000 in restitution. Johnson pleaded guilty in December to one count of theft of government, and prosecutors dropped a false statement charge as part of a plea agreement.

Authorities say Johnson misused \$57,458 of Social Security child insurance benefits between August 2005 and May 2012. The money was intended to be used on current or future needs of Johnson's juvenile daughter following the death of her biological father in 2004.

Authorities say Johnson used part of the money to pay off vehicle loans.

## **National champ Augustana basketball team to be welcomed home**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Augustana University has scheduled a welcome-home reception for its national champion men's basketball team.

The ceremony will take place at 4 p.m. Tuesday in the Elmen Center arena on the Sioux Falls campus.

The Vikings beat Lincoln Memorial of Tennessee 90-81 on Saturday in Frisco, Texas, to win the NCAA Division II championship.

"I really felt like we were the best team in the country, and we need to go prove it. Nothing is going to be given to us, but if we play the way we're capable of we're going to do something special, and we did," senior Daniel Jansen told KELO-TV after the win.

Augustana finished the season with 15 straight wins and a program-record 34 wins. The team lost only two games all year.

"We're always going to be champions. When we get back together years from now, we can talk about this run, this season, and all the time and effort we put in," said Jansen, who scored 25 points and grabbed

nine rebounds in the championship while playing on an injured foot. "It's amazing."

It is the third national team title in school history. Augustana won the Division II women's cross country championship in 2011 and the softball title in 1991.

## Syrian forces recapture ancient city of Palmyra from IS

Syrian government forces recaptured the ancient city of Palmyra, scoring an important victory over Islamic State fighters who waged a 10-month reign of terror there

By ALBERT AJI and PHILIP ISSA

Associated Press

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP) — Syrian government forces recaptured the ancient city of Palmyra on Sunday, scoring an important victory over Islamic State fighters who waged a 10-month reign of terror there and dealing the group its first major defeat since an international agreement to battle terrorism in the fractured nation took effect last year.

The city known to Syrians as the "Bride of the Desert" is famous for its 2,000-year-old ruins that once drew tens of thousands of visitors each year before IS destroyed many of the monuments. The extent of the destruction remained unclear. Initial footage on Syrian TV showed widespread rubble and shattered statues. But Palmyra's grand colonnades appeared to be in relatively good condition.

The government forces were supported by Lebanese militias and Russian air power. The Islamic State now faces pressure on several fronts as Kurdish ground forces advance on its territory in Syria's north and government forces have a new path to its de facto capital, Raqqa, and the contested eastern city of Deir el-Zour.

International airstrikes have pounded IS territory, killing two top leaders in recent weeks, according to the Pentagon. Those strikes have also inflicted dozens of civilian casualties.

In Iraq, government forces backed by the U.S. and Iran are preparing a ground offensive to retake the country's second largest city, Mosul.

The fall of Palmyra comes a month after a partial cease-fire in Syria's civil war came into force. The truce was sponsored by the United States and Russia in part to allow the government and international community to focus on al-Qaida styled militants, among them the IS group.

In comments reported on state TV, President Bashar Assad described the Palmyra operation as a "significant achievement" offering "new evidence of the effectiveness of the strategy espoused by the Syrian army and its allies in the war against terrorism."

IS drove government forces from Palmyra in a matter of days last May and later demolished some of its best-known monuments, including two large temples dating back more than 1,800 years and a Roman triumphal archway.

State TV showed the rubble left over from the destruction of the Temple of Bel as well as the damaged archway, the supports of which were still standing. It said a statue of Zenobia, the third century queen who ruled an independent state from Palmyra and figures strongly in Syrian lore, was missing.

Artifacts inside the city's museum also appeared heavily damaged on state TV. A sculpture of the Greek goddess Athena was decapitated, and the museum's basement appeared to have been dynamited, the hall littered with broken statues.

Still, state media reported that a lion statue dating back to the second century, previously thought to have been destroyed by IS militants, was found in a damaged but recoverable condition.

Extremists beheaded the archaeological site's 81-year-old director, Khaled al-Asaad, in August after he reportedly refused to divulge where authorities had hidden treasures before the group swept in. Militants viewed the ruins as monuments to idolatry.

IS also demolished Palmyra's infamous Tadmur prison, where thousands of government opponents were reportedly tortured.

Syrian state TV hailed the government's advance, and a local reporter spoke live from inside Palmyra, showing troops in the center of the town, where some buildings had been reduced to rubble.

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Syrian Culture Minister Issam Khalil described the recapture as a “victory for humanity and right over all projects of darkness.”

Maamoun Abdulkarim, director of the museums and antiquities department in Damascus, said Palmyra’s Great Colonnade had suffered only minor damage. “We will rebuild what you have destroyed,” he said, addressing IS.

The Syrian opposition, which blames the government for the country’s devastating civil war and the rise of IS, rejected that narrative.

“The government wants through this operation to win the favor of Western nations by fighting against terrorism, while obscuring its responsibility as providing the reasons for the spread of terror,” said Khaled Nasser, a member of the opposition coalition that has been negotiating with the government in Geneva.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, which monitors the conflict through local activists, confirmed that IS had lost the town. Observatory chief Rami Abdurrahman said three weeks of fighting killed more than 400 IS fighters, as well as 180 troops and allied militiamen.

Residents told The Associated Press that IS evacuated all of Palmyra’s civilians to other territories under its control before government forces entered the city.

“It’s joyful for people to return home. Still we are sad to see damage in this historical city,” said Sohban Eleiwi, a businessman from Palmyra now residing in Homs.

Other residents said they would not return to live under government rule.

“We don’t hate the regime any less than we hate Daesh,” said Osama Khatib, a Palmyra native who fled to Turkey three years ago after serving a jail sentence for taking part in demonstrations.

“Daesh and the regime behave the same way,” he said.

Government forces had been trying to retake the town for nearly three weeks. Gen. Ali Mayhoub announced on the Syrian TV Sunday afternoon that its recapture “directs a fatal blow to Daesh, undermines the morale of its mercenaries and ushers in the start of its defeat and retreat,” referring to IS by its Arabic acronym.

Government forces have advanced on a number of fronts in recent months, aided by a Russian air campaign. Moscow announced earlier this month that it would begin drawing down its forces, but said it will continue to target IS and other extremist groups.

Syria’s conflict began a little more than five years ago with mostly peaceful protests against the Assad family’s four-decade rule. A fierce government crackdown and the rise of an insurgency plunged the country into a full-blown civil war that has killed more than 250,000 people.

## **Egyptian plane hijacked to Cyprus, most passengers released**

**MENELAOS HADJICOSTIS, Associated Press**

**HAMZA HENDAWI, Associated Press**

LARNACA, Cyprus (AP) — An Egyptian man hijacked an EgyptAir plane Tuesday and forced it to land on the island of Cyprus, where most passengers were eventually freed, though four crew members and three passengers remained on board with the hijacker, Egyptian and Cypriot officials said.

The man’s motivation was unclear, but Cyprus President Nicos Anastasiades said the hijacking was “not something that has to do with terrorism” and a Cyprus government official, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss an ongoing investigation, said the man “seems (to be) in love.”

Anastasiades, appearing alongside European Parliament President Martin Schulz in Nicosia, was asked by reporters whether he could confirm that the incident was about a woman. “Always, there is a woman” involved, he replied, drawing laughter.

A civil aviation official, also speaking on condition of anonymity because he wasn’t allowed to disclose details of ongoing negotiations, said the man gave negotiators the name of a woman who lives in Cyprus and asked to give her an envelope. The relationship between her and the man was unclear.

Flight MS181 took off from the Mediterranean coastal city of Alexandria en route to Cairo with at least 55 passengers, including 26 foreigners, and a seven-member crew.

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An official with flight-tracking website FlightRadar24 said the plane showed no immediate signs of distress. The flight between Alexandria and Cairo normally takes about 30 minutes.

There was confusion about the hijacker's identity. At a news conference in Cairo, Egypt's Civil Aviation minister, Sharif Fathi, refused to identify him.

Earlier, Egyptian government spokesman Hossam al-Queish said the hijacker was Ibrahim Samaha, but an Egyptian woman who identified herself as Samaha's wife said her husband is not the hijacker and was on his way to Cairo so he could fly to the U.S. to attend a conference.

The woman, who identified herself only as Nahla, told the Egyptian private TV network ONTV in a phone interview that her husband had never been to Cyprus and that a photo on Egyptian and regional TV channels that supposedly showed the hijacker was not him. Later, the official Middle East News Agency gave a different name for the hijacker.

Al-Queish, the government spokesman, also told the private CBC TV network that authorities could not confirm that the hijacker had explosives on him. An earlier statement from the Egyptian Aviation Ministry said the man claimed he had a belt with explosives.

The plane landed at the airport in the southern Cypriot city of Larnaca, also on the Mediterranean. A statement from the Egyptian Civil Aviation Ministry statement said the foreigners on board included eight Americans, four Britons, four Dutch, two Belgians, a French national, an Italian, two Greeks and one Syrian. Three other foreigners could not be identified.

Fathi did not give the nationalities of those who remained on the plane and appeared to be defensive when asked about security measures at the Alexandria airport, repeatedly telling reporters that he must withhold some information in the interest of safeguarding negotiations with the hijacker.

The passengers released by the hijacker calmly walked off the plane down a set of stairs, carrying their hand luggage, and boarded a bus parked by the plane's side. Security was tight at the airport, with police repeatedly pushing back reporters and TV news crews working just outside the facility's fence, near where the aircraft stopped.

Police also evacuated the nearby Makenzy beach, a stretch of coast close to the airport and popular with tourists. It was not immediately clear why.

An Egyptian aircraft later flew to Larnaca so it could bring back the released passengers, according to officials.

The incident raises more questions about security at Egyptian airports, five months after a Russian aircraft crashed over Egypt's Sinai Peninsula minutes after it took off from Egypt's Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh.

All 224 people on board were killed in the crash. Russia later said an explosive device brought down the aircraft and the extremist Islamic State group took responsibility.

U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson, appearing on MSNBC's "Morning Joe" program Tuesday, said that a "very good question" is whether the man who hijacked the plane Tuesday was able to pass through airport security with a bomb-laden belt.

The hijacking was reminiscent of a deadly 1978 incident that involved Egyptians, planes and Larnaca airport.

The incident arose when two Palestinians assassinated an Egyptian government minister at his hotel in Nicosia. The assailants took hostages and drove to the airport, where they boarded a plane with them. They later returned to Cyprus, where they had an hours-long standoff until an Egyptian C-130 carrying commandos landed at Larnaca airport.

The commandos attempted to storm the Cyprus Airways jet, but were fired upon by Cypriot troops. Many were killed. The Palestinians eventually surrendered. They were arrested, sentenced and released years later.

The incident poisoned Egypt's relations with Cyprus for years. Relations eventually improved, but it was Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi, in office since June 2014, who has forged close ties with Cyprus. El-Sissi and Anastasiades frequently confer in person or on the phone. They spoke by phone Tuesday about the hijacking.

## Asia: A look at where journalists face renewed pressure

The Associated Press

In many countries across Asia, governments are growing less tolerant of critical reporting, even arresting journalists and closing media outlets in some cases. In China, authorities recently removed an online story from a financial magazine about censorship — a taboo topic — while Thailand's military junta has detained journalists for what it calls "attitude adjustment" and shut down TV and radio stations.

A look at how and where journalists are coming under renewed pressure:

### CHINA: SETTING THE TONE

The ruling Communist Party has long exercised heavy-handed direction over news media, but recent events speak to a further tightening of ideological controls.

President and party leader Xi Jinping set the tone with visits in February to the official Xinhua News Agency, the party-controlled People's Daily newspaper and state broadcaster CCTV. At each place, he stated that absolute loyalty to the party was the media's highest priority.

Negative responses to Xi's visit were censored on China's once-vibrant social media. One outspoken critic, real estate magnate Ren Zhiqiang, had his accounts suspended. When Weibo, China's hugely popular version of Twitter — which along with Facebook is blocked in China — first came out, people could post quite freely, but now controversial comments are quickly removed.

The pinch is being felt even at more market-driven newspapers, magazines and websites that, while still technically controlled by the state, had enjoyed more latitude in news reporting. In an Orwellian example, an article posted online by popular business and finance magazine Caixin was removed because it broached the taboo topic of censorship.

Most recently, more than a dozen editors and technicians have gone missing and are believed to be under investigation after an anonymous letter calling for Xi's resignation was posted on a government-backed news portal. Dissident writers have been detained or their families in China harassed for criticizing the secret investigation.

— Christopher Bodeen and Didi Tang in Beijing

### THAILAND: ATTITUDE ADJUSTMENT

A junta that took power in a 2014 coup has detained journalists for what it calls "attitude adjustment," shut TV and radio stations for perceived critical coverage of the government, banned press events and most recently tightened visa requirements for foreign reporters.

Under new measures announced last month, only journalists working for a registered news agency will be able to obtain or renew journalists' visas, a move that press freedom groups say would bar some freelancers from working in the country.

Media freedom groups say the junta has used the pretext of maintaining peace and order, after years of political upheaval, to employ a massive campaign of censorship and intimidation in what was once considered a bastion of free press in Southeast Asia. Reporters Without Borders has called the crackdown "a blitzkrieg against freely reported news and information."

Thai journalists have faced a barrage of pressures over the past two years. One prominent editorial cartoonist from the Thai Rath newspaper was detained twice and warned he could be prosecuted if he continued to satirize the junta chief in his drawings. A senior writer for The Nation newspaper who was openly critical of the coup was detained twice and ultimately fired.

A few foreign reporters have had their visa applications denied since the junta took power, according to the Foreign Correspondents Club of Thailand, which itself has had several events banned by the junta.

— Jocelyn Gecker in Bangkok

### MALAYSIA: THE \$700 MILLION SCANDAL

The government is cracking down on media as a financial scandal engulfs Prime Minister Najib Razak. Two Australian TV journalists were briefly arrested this month after they tried to question Najib about

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the scandal during his visit to eastern Sarawak state. The duo were released and deported after the Australian government intervened.

At issue is more than \$700 million deposited into Najib's bank accounts in early 2013. Critics accuse him of corruption and say the money came from indebted state investment fund 1MDB, which he founded in 2009. The attorney-general has cleared him of wrongdoing, saying most of the money was a donation from Saudi's royal family.

Malaysia's government has also blocked some new websites, including popular news portal Malaysian Insider, over critical reports of the government. The portal, owned by the Edge Media Group, shut down recently, citing a loss of income caused by the government's ban.

Last year, the government also suspended two newspapers under the Edge group over its coverage alleging corruption at 1MDB. The Edge challenged the government's suspension in court and succeeded in getting the ban lifted.

— Eileen Ng in Kuala Lumpur

## INDIA: HINDU HARDLINERS

Intimidation of journalists is nothing new in India, but it has taken on a new element under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Hindu nationalist government.

India, the world's largest democracy, has a relatively free press, but the current BJP government has been criticized for not trying to stop fringe rightwing elements that threaten journalists and activists in the name of patriotism.

The host of a late February newscast on whether India had become intolerant of dissent became a target of intimidation herself after one of her guests referred to a pamphlet that called the Hindu goddess Durga a sex worker. Sindhu Sooryakumar was bombarded with more than 2,500 threatening calls accusing her of disparaging the deity. Six members of a militant group linked with the BJP have been arrested.

During a court hearing for a university student charged with sedition for allegedly making anti-India statements, lawyers beat reporters and damaged cameras and recording equipment while demanding they not cover public protests against the student's arrest. Finance Minister Arun Jaitley condemned the violence, saying "it was a terrible exception."

Sujata Madhok, secretary-general of the Delhi Union of Journalists, accused the BJP of targeting Muslim and Christian religious minorities and the underprivileged Dalits. "The BJP would like people to believe it's the handiwork of the party's fringe elements, but the fringe elements appear to be occupying the center-stage."

The previous Congress Party government was accused of paying lip service to minorities, but it kept Hindu hardliners in check. That's not necessarily the case now.

— Ashok Sharma in New Delhi

## JAPAN: TIGHTENING THE SCREWS?

A public warning by the communications minister in February that broadcasters could have their licenses revoked if coverage isn't politically fair is seen by many as the latest attempt to pressure journalists to toe the government line.

The government under Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has strengthened its strategy to get official views prominently reflected in both domestic and foreign media on defense, World War II history and other divisive issues. Officials complain to journalists about coverage they consider biased, while Abe gives exclusive interviews to selected media, often those sharing his views.

Media watchers say Japanese media traditionally practices self-restraint to avoid trouble with officials in a cozy "press club" environment, weakening their commitment to serve as watchdog and resist pressure or favors. Heads of major media companies regularly dine with Abe.

However, the communications minister's statements that TV licenses could be revoked have triggered outrage from some prominent journalists, who say they violate freedom of the press and intimidate the media.

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The recent resignations of three outspoken newscasters have fueled speculation of government pressure, although the three say they were not pressed to resign.

— Mari Yamaguchi in Tokyo

## 10 Things to Know for Today

**The Associated Press**

Your daily look at late-breaking news, upcoming events and the stories that will be talked about today:

### 1. EGYPTIAN JETLINER HIJACKED

An Egyptian man hijacks an EgyptAir plane and forces it to land in Cyprus, where seven people are still being held. Cyprus' president says the incident was "not something that has to do with terrorism."

### 2. CHINA EMERGING AS GLOBAL MONEY-LAUNDERING HUB

Mysterious cyber-thieves trick toy maker Mattel into wiring over \$3 million to a bank in China, in an often replicated scheme that has cost companies \$1.8 billion.

### 3. WHAT TRUMP'S ASPIRATIONS MAY HINGE ON

The Republican front-runner's White House dreams may now depend on a messy fight for delegates he is only now scrambling to address.

### 4. QUESTIONS LINGER AFTER FEDS HACK IPHONE

The legal fight pitting the Obama administration against Apple ends unexpectedly after the FBI says it used a method it did not reveal to hack into a California mass shooter's smartphone.

### 5. OBAMA TO ADDRESS NATION'S GROWING OPIOID PROBLEM

The federal government will issue a proposed rule that aims to increase medication-based treatment for tens of thousands of addicts.

### 6. ONE CONSEQUENCE OF YEMEN WAR

Malnutrition underscores how hunger has dramatically spread in the country over the past year of fighting and Saudi-led airstrikes.

### 7. HOW ONE SCHOOL DISTRICT IS ENABLING THE ARTS

Los Angeles schools are trying to enlist Hollywood studios to "adopt" schools and provide students with equipment, mentorships and training as a way to reverse years of cuts and layoffs.

### 8. UTAH ENACTS ABORTION ANESTHESIA

The bill that requires doctors to give the heavy sedative to women terminating a pregnancy at 20 weeks or later is based on the disputed premise that a fetus can feel pain at that point.

### 9. REPORT: PROSECUTORS RARELY DISCIPLINED FOR MISCONDUCT

Researchers examined 660 criminal cases in five states where courts confirmed prosecutorial misconduct and found only one prosecutor had been disciplined.

### 10. WOMEN'S FINAL FOUR SET

And to no surprise UConn is there for the ninth consecutive season, joining three first-timers in Oregon State, Washington and Syracuse.

## Hundreds of Islamic extremists protest in Pakistan's capital

**MUNIR AHMED, Associated Press**

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Hundreds of Islamic extremists who earlier violently protested in Islamabad over the hanging of a man who killed a secular governor continued their demonstrations in Pakistan's capital on Tuesday, despite warnings from the government targeting extremists.

The rally by Pakistan's Sunni Tehreek group saw more than 10,000 protesters enter Islamabad on Sunday, damaging buildings and bus stations. On Tuesday, local police official Mohammad Kashif said some 700 remained, bringing the most sensitive parts of the capital to a standstill.

The protesters are demanding Pakistan strictly enforce Shariah, or Islamic, law, after the hanging of police officer Mumtaz Qadri, who killed Gov. Salman Taseer in 2011. The group also demands a Christian woman named Aasia Bibi, who is accused of blasphemy and who Taseer supported, be hanged.



Tuesday's sit-in continued despite Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's overnight warning that his government will fight extremists. His comments followed the massive suicide bombing that targeted Christians gathered for Easter in Pakistan's eastern city of Lahore, an attack that killed 72 people.

Hours after Sunday's attacks, a breakaway Taliban faction, which publicly supports the Islamic State group, claimed responsibility, without offering further details. The attack shocked the nation and the army responded by launching raids on suspected militant hideouts in Pakistan's eastern Punjab province, of which Lahore is the capital.

More than 300 suspects have been detained in the raids in the past 48 hours, a security official said. Another official also confirmed nearly 300 arrests and said most of those detained were suspected to belong to outlawed militant and extremist groups.

The two officials spoke on condition of anonymity as they were not authorized to publicly speak to journalists.

The military also had intensified its operation against militants in the North Waziristan tribal region bordering Afghanistan in June 2014 following December 2014 attack on a school in the city of Peshawar that killed 150 people, mainly children.

## MedStar paralyzed as hackers take aim at another US hospital

**JACK GILLUM, Associated Press**

**DAVID DISHNEAU, Associated Press**

**TAMI ABDOLLAH, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Modern medicine in the Washington area reverted to 1960s-era paper systems when one of the largest hospital chains was crippled by a virus that shuttered its computers for patients and medical staff.

The FBI said it was investigating the paralyzing attack on MedStar Health Inc., which forced records systems offline, prevented patients from booking appointments, and left staff unable to check email messages or even look up phone numbers.

The incident was the latest against U.S. medical providers, coming weeks after a California hospital paid ransom to free its infected systems using the bitcoin currency. A law enforcement official, who declined to be identified because the person was not authorized to discuss an ongoing investigation, said the FBI was assessing whether a similar situation occurred at MedStar.

"We can't do anything at all. There's only one system we use, and now it's just paper," said one MedStar employee who, like others, spoke on condition of anonymity because this person was not authorized to speak with reporters.

There were few signs of the attack's effects easing late Monday, with one employee at Georgetown University Hospital saying systems were still down, and saying some managers had to stay late and come in early because of the disruptions.

Company spokeswoman Ann Nickels said she couldn't say whether it was a ransomware attack. She said patient care was not affected, and hospitals were using a paper backup system.

But when asked whether hackers demanded payment, Nickels said, "I don't have an answer to that," and referred to the company's statement.

MedStar operates 10 hospitals in Maryland and Washington, including the Georgetown hospital. It employs 30,000 staff and has 6,000 affiliated physicians.

Dr. Richard Alcorta, the medical director for Maryland's emergency medical services network, said he suspects it was a ransomware attack based on multiple ransomware attempts on individual hospitals in the state. Alcorta said he was unaware of any ransoms paid by Maryland hospitals or health care systems.

"People view this, I think, as a form of terrorism and are attempting to extort money by attempting to infect them with this type of virus," he said.

Alcorta said his agency first learned of MedStar's problems about 10:30 a.m., when the company's Good Samaritan Hospital in Baltimore called in a request to divert emergency medical services traffic from that

facility. He said that was followed by a similar request from Union Memorial, another MedStar hospital in Baltimore. The diversions were lifted as the hospitals' backup systems started operating, he said.

Some staff said they were made aware of the virus earlier, being ordered to shut off their computers entirely by late morning. One Twitter user posted a picture Monday he said showed blacked-out computer screens inside the emergency room of Washington Hospital Center, a trauma center in Northwest Washington.

Monday's hacking at MedStar comes one month after a Los Angeles hospital paid hackers \$17,000 to regain control of its computer system, which hackers had seized with ransomware using an infected email attachment.

Hollywood Presbyterian Medical Center, which is owned by CHA Medical Center of South Korea, paid 40 bitcoins — or about \$420 per coin of the digital currency — to restore normal operations and disclosed the attack publicly. That hack was first noticed Feb. 5, and operations didn't fully recover until 10 days later.

Hospitals are considered critical infrastructure, but unless patient data is affected, there is no requirement to disclose such hackings even if operations are disrupted.

Computer security of the hospital industry is generally regarded as poor, and the federal Health and Human Services Department regularly publishes a list of health care providers that have been hacked with patient information stolen. The agency said Monday it was aware of the MedStar incident.

## Supporters of religious exemption bill say debate isn't over

**RUSS BYNUM, Associated Press**

**KATHLEEN FOODY, Associated Press**

ATLANTA (AP) — Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal's plan to veto a "religious freedom" bill has supporters vowing that the issue isn't going away.

Groups that supported the bill, including the Georgia Baptist Mission Board, plan a news conference Tuesday morning to discuss their next steps.

"We're not going to quit," said Mike Griffin, spokesman for the Baptist organization. "We definitely don't want to have Gov. Deal listening to Wall Street and Hollywood over the citizens of the state of Georgia who expect him to support religious liberty."

Within days of its passage, Coca-Cola and other big-name Georgia companies joined prominent Hollywood figures urging Deal to reject the proposal. The Walt Disney Co., Marvel Studios and Salesforce.com threatened to take their business elsewhere. The NFL said it would be a factor in choosing whether Atlanta hosts the 2019 or 2020 Super Bowl.

What remains to be seen is whether there's enough support among lawmakers to call a special session to revisit the proposal this summer or whether it will have to wait until the 2017 legislative session convenes in January.

Sen. Josh McKoon, a Columbus Republican who's one of the issue's key supporters, said lawmakers may barely be able to scrape together the votes needed to reconvene at the Capitol this summer. But he said it would be tougher finding the votes necessary to override the governor's veto.

Lawmakers have already left the Capitol for the year, adjourning Thursday. They would need a three-fifths majority of both houses to ask the governor to convene a special session, and even then, vote totals on the bill suggest they lack the two-thirds vote in both chambers to override his veto.

"It's more likely we'll continue this debate for the next nine months and have a bill introduced in January and fight it out again," McKoon said, adding that he's willing to author a new bill if necessary.

Deal will remain the state's top officeholder through two more legislative sessions. He's term-limited and has said he doesn't plan to run for political office after leaving the governor's mansion in 2018.

Republican legislative leaders portrayed the bill that Deal plans to reject as a compromise, developed after years of sparring over the issue.

Neither House Speaker David Ralston, a Blue Ridge Republican, nor Republican Lt. Gov. Casey Cagle called for a special session Monday. Cagle, who's considered a top candidate for the GOP governor's race in 2018, did say the bill struck "the right balance."

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"I've always advocated for Georgia's status as the number one state to do business, but as we move forward I will never lose sight of the importance of an individual's right to practice their faith," he said. "This principle will continue to guide my actions going forward."

The bill enumerated a list of actions that "people of faith" would not have to perform for other people. Clergy could refuse to perform gay marriages; churches and affiliated religious groups could have invoked their faith as a reason to refuse to serve or hire someone. People claiming their religious freedoms have been burdened by state or local laws also could force governments to prove there's a "compelling" state interest overriding their beliefs.

All but 11 Republicans in the Georgia House and Senate voted in favor; all Democrats voted against it.

Another round of debate won't be welcome news to companies and economic development groups that resisted this year's proposal, said Eric Tanenblatt, a GOP strategist who served as chief of staff to former Gov. Sonny Perdue.

"From an economic development standpoint, it was not helpful having news stories across the country talking about this issue in Georgia," Tanenblatt said. "... If there's a spirited debate like this again, that will all resurface."

Georgia's largest gay-rights advocacy group vowed to push instead for legal protection specific to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender residents in employment, housing and other services. State law currently offers none, and Georgia Equality's Executive Director Jeff Graham said Deal's veto doesn't end the group's work.

"While we're enjoying today's hard-fought victory, we'll continue working to ensure every single Georgian is protected from discrimination," Graham said Monday.

## Israel parliament gives initial OK to suspending lawmakers

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel's parliament has given preliminary approval to a bill allowing lawmakers to suspend a legislator by a three-quarters majority vote.

Lawmakers drafted the bill after three Arab lawmakers visited the families of Palestinians who had attacked Israelis. In the last six months, Palestinians have killed 28 Israelis in stabbings, shooting and vehicular attacks. At least 188 Palestinians have died by Israeli fire, a majority of whom Israel says were attackers.

Nissan Slomiansky of the Jewish Home party presented the bill Monday, saying: "There are borders to democracy."

Legislators could suspend a colleague for "inciting to racism," "supporting armed struggle, by an enemy state or terrorist organization, against Israel," or "negating the existence of Israel as a Jewish and democratic state."

The bill must pass two more readings to become law.

## Man convicted in girl's 1957 death could go free

DEKALB, Ill. (AP) — A 76-year-old former security guard serving a life sentence in the 1957 slaying of a 7-year-old Illinois girl could go free soon after a prosecutor found fault with the investigation and new evidence corroborated an alibi.

One of the oldest cases in the U.S. ever to go to trial will be back before a DeKalb County court Tuesday, not far from Sycamore, where Maria Ridulph was abducted, stabbed and choked to death. Jack McCullough was convicted in 2012, some 55 years after the death.

DeKalb County State's Attorney Richard Schmack said in a scathing filing last week that a review turned up serious missteps during the investigation and prosecution. He also said there was new evidence supporting a McCullough alibi.

## Obama seeing China leader as South China Sea tensions rise

**MATTHEW PENNINGTON, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama will be meeting with Asian leaders in Washington this week as fears grow that long-smoldering tensions on the Korean Peninsula and in the South China Sea risk flaring into conflict.

World leaders, including those from China, Japan and South Korea, will be in town for a summit hosted by Obama on nuclear security — the final round in the U.S. president's drive for international action to stop materials that could be used for an atomic weapon or dirty bomb from getting into terrorist hands.

But other pressing security issues will be up for discussion on the sidelines of the two-day gathering that starts Thursday.

Obama will on Thursday meet separately with China's President Xi Jinping at a time when frictions between the two world powers over China's island-building in strategic waters are growing and look set to intensify with an upcoming ruling from an international tribunal on Beijing's sweeping territorial claims.

The U.S. president is also meeting with the leaders of Japan and South Korea. Washington is looking for an elusive unity between its core allies in Asia as threats from North Korea reach fever-pitch after Pyongyang was stung with tough sanctions in response to its recent nuclear test and rocket launch.

Obama will be urging China to implement the U.N. sanctions it signed up to for use against North Korea, its traditional ally. For his part, Xi will want the U.S. to restart negotiations with the authoritarian government of Kim Jong Un, which has been touting progress in miniaturizing nuclear devices and missile technology that could directly threaten America.

With Obama's presidency in its final year, there's uncertainty among Asian nations on what the next administration will portend. Republican presidential frontrunner Donald Trump is calling for Japan and South Korea to pay more for U.S. military protection, and is advocating a tougher trade policy toward China.

During his seven years in office, Obama has deepened engagement with Asia, despite the huge distraction of chaos in the Middle East. The U.S. and China have cooperated on issues like climate change and nuclear security, even as their strategic rivalry has grown. The U.S. is a major player in China's fast-growing nuclear industry, and this month, the U.S. and China opened a center in Beijing to train technicians and scientists from across the Asia-Pacific on nuclear security.

But when Obama and Xi meet, the hottest topic will be the most divisive one: China's bold pursuit of its sweeping territorial claims in the South China Sea.

China has reclaimed more than 3,000 acres of land in the past two years near sea lanes crucial for world trade. On these artificial islands, Beijing has installed airstrips and other military facilities that U.S. intelligence assesses will enable China to project offensive military power in the region by early next year.

Despite conflicting territorial claims from five other Asian governments, China contends it has a historic right to most of the South China Sea and maintains the U.S. has no business there. It accuses the U.S. of stoking tensions by sending military ships and planes through the area on freedom of navigation maneuvers.

"Washington should know that the more provocative moves it makes against China, the more countermeasures Beijing will take. Such an undesirable cycle may push both sides nearer confrontation and cause both to prepare for the worst-case scenario, potentially making it self-fulfilling," the U.S. edition of the state-supported China Daily said in a recent editorial.

The stakes are set to rise by mid-year when an international arbitration body is set to rule on a case brought by the Philippines challenging the legal basis of the nine-dash line — Beijing's rough demarcation of its claims.

If the Hague-based tribunal rules in the Philippines' favor, as most experts anticipate, it could undermine China's insistence that its stance is consistent with international law. China has refused to participate in the arbitration and says it will ignore the ruling, but a growing number of countries say both parties should be bound by it.

Jeffrey Bader, Obama's former principal advisor on Asia, wrote in a commentary ahead of the summit that there's concern in Washington and the region about how China might react to the ruling, and whether

it will militarily challenge Filipino territorial claims. He said that as the Philippines is a U.S. ally, Obama "may warn Xi of the risks of escalation."

The last time Xi visited Washington, in September, he publicly said that China did not intend to pursue militarization in the Spratly islands where most of land reclamation has happened — a statement that U.S. officials remind Beijing of at every opportunity. But in recent weeks, China has reportedly positioned more military equipment on disputed islands in the South China Sea.

## Trump scrambles to address delegate fight

**STEVE PEOPLES, Associated Press**

**STEPHEN OHLEMACHER, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — He is the Republican Party's undisputed front-runner, yet Donald Trump's White House aspirations may now depend on a messy fight for delegates he is only now scrambling to address.

Trump's campaign on Monday vowed to pursue legal action against the Republican National Committee to protect his recent victory in Louisiana, one of many states that feature complicated rules allowing campaigns to influence the presidential nominating process weeks or months after their votes have been counted.

A similar process plays out nationwide every four years. Yet Trump's outsider candidacy is so far driven largely by media coverage instead of the on-the-ground organization that rival Ted Cruz boasts. Now, Trump must play catch up — especially in the chase for delegates previously bound to former candidate Marco Rubio.

"A lot of Trump's support has been through earned media, so you haven't had the need to really focus on that aspect of it," said Jason Osborne, one of several former Ben Carson aides tapped in recent weeks to undertake Trump's delegate outreach. "But that doesn't mean you can't get up to speed pretty quickly on it."

Indeed, Trump's campaign on Tuesday will announce plans to open a Washington, D.C. office to run its delegate operation and congressional relations team, said campaign senior adviser Barry Bennett.

In addition to the new space, Bennett said Trump has hired a veteran political operative to serve as the campaign's convention manager. Paul Manafort, a seasoned Washington hand with decades of convention experience, will oversee the campaign's "entire convention presence" including a potential contested convention, said Bennett.

The move marks a major escalation in Trump's willingness to play by party rules and build alliances in a political system he has so far shunned. It comes as Trump faces a Republican nomination battle that will almost certainly extend until the final day of primary voting on June 7 — or even to the party's July national convention in Cleveland — if he fails to secure the delegate majority needed to become the presumptive nominee.

In a campaign season so far defined by extraordinary insults and extreme rhetoric, the 2016 Republican presidential nomination fight could ultimately be decided by lawmakers, party activists and lawyers.

Selecting the people who will be delegates at the national convention is a tedious process governed by rules that vary from state to state. In some states, like New Hampshire and California, the candidates submit slates of delegates — actual people who would presumably be loyal at a contested convention.

In states like Louisiana, Iowa, Nevada and many others, delegates are selected at state and congressional district conventions and caucuses. To prevent mischief, the national party adopted a rule requiring delegates to vote, on the first ballot at the convention, to vote for the candidate who won them.

"Honestly, I'm new to the operation. It's obviously not perfect," said Trump aide Ed Brookover, who was Carson's former campaign manager.

Brookover vowed Trump would have "an active presence" at every one of the upcoming lower-profile conventions and caucuses where delegates are selected. That includes this weekend's state convention in North Dakota, where 25 delegates will be selected. All of them — in addition to the state's three national committee members — will be free to support the candidate of their choosing at the GOP's national July

convention.

Carson himself will appear in North Dakota on Trump's behalf, Brookover said, as part of outreach efforts that include hospitality suites for delegates, campaign surrogates, parliamentarians and support staff for all upcoming contests.

It takes 1,237 delegates to win the Republican nomination. Trump, with 739 delegates, is the only candidate with a realistic path to clinching the nomination by the end of the primaries on June 7.

Rubio's recent exit gave Trump's rivals an opening to help make his path harder. Most delegates are free to support the candidate of their choice if their preferred candidate drops out. The Florida senator suspended his campaign earlier in the month after accumulating 166 delegates — a trove that Cruz's campaign is aggressively courting.

A dispute in Louisiana highlights Trump's challenge.

Rubio won five delegates in Louisiana's March 5 primary, people who became free agents after he suspended his campaign.

At Louisiana's subsequent GOP convention, Cruz's campaign secured all of Rubio's delegates, as well as five others who were uncommitted. As a result, Cruz could end up with more delegates from Louisiana, even though Trump narrowly won the state's popular vote.

Bennett said the campaign would formally challenge the certification of Louisiana's delegates during the Republican National Committee's summer meeting. Trump is most upset, he said, that Cruz's campaign pushed its Louisiana supporters onto the national convention's powerful rules committee.

Bennett predicted Trump would accumulate 1,460 delegates before the convention, making legal action unnecessary. That's more than enough to claim the nomination outright even if Cruz successfully peels away some of his support in the coming months.

Louisiana GOP executive director Jason Dore, one of the uncommitted delegates for the state, acknowledged Cruz has had a stronger ground game in Louisiana than Trump and has worked on attracting delegates since the beginning.

As for the threat of a lawsuit, Dore said: "I don't know who he'd be suing because these 10 delegates are free to support whoever they want under the rules. The party or I can't force them to vote any way."

He said the delegate allocation formulas were crafted in compliance with the RNC.

"We consulted with the RNC and followed their advice," Dore said.

## In Hollywood's backyard, a push to rectify arts inequities

**CHRISTINE ARMARIO, Associated Press**

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Miles from the Hollywood Walk of Fame and the red carpet, Steve Shin belts out tunes on a piano scarred with nicks and love notes written in scratches, teaching children how to sing.

In scores of other middle schools, his students might have already learned how to read the notes on a scale. But years of cuts have stripped arts classes from much of the Los Angeles district, leaving many children in the world's entertainment capital with no instruction in music, visual arts, dance or theater.

When Shin arrived for the first day of class, he quickly realized many of his students were starting from zero. "A lot of them didn't even know they were going to be in a music class," he said.

Now the nation's second-largest school district is trying to enlist Hollywood studios to "adopt" schools and provide students with equipment, mentorships and training as a way to reverse the layoffs that have decimated the curriculum.

The financial picture is slowly changing. The arts budget has grown to \$26.5 million, about 40 percent higher than five years ago, but still a fraction of the \$76.8 million sum that was once available for the arts. For the next school year, it will increase to \$32.3 million.

In 2014, the district hired former TV writer and producer Rory Pullens as its executive director for arts education. He has since hired an arts teacher at every school.

Pullens is convinced his work in a district that has 90 percent minority students will one day help diversify Hollywood — a widely discussed goal after the criticism of this year's all-white list of Academy Award

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acting nominees. He has already met with Paramount, Universal and dozens of other industry leaders to solicit help.

"It is well within all of our powers, if we work together, to remedy that by really addressing the deep-rooted symptoms and not just trying to put in a couple remedies on the surface," Pullens said.

The renewed push for arts education in LA comes as new federal education policies stir hope that schools will begin shifting more time and money toward classes such as dance and drama. In recent years, districts have focused on areas emphasized by the No Child Left Behind law, the 2001 law that required schools to meet annual targets for math and reading proficiency or face intervention.

"We do see the pendulum swinging away from the stark focus on discipline and standardized testing toward a more well-rounded definition of what education should be," said Scott Jones, senior associate for research and policy at the Arts Education Partnership.

Forty-four states require high schools to offer arts classes. Forty-five states make the same requirement for elementary and middle schools. But at many schools, policy doesn't necessarily match up with course offerings.

The new federal law instructs schools to offer a balanced education that includes music and other arts. In Los Angeles, school leaders are hoping a revised funding formula and industry engagement will rectify longstanding inequities in arts education.

When Pullens arrived, one of his first initiatives was to survey every school to find out what arts programs they had.

In a presentation last spring at a Hollywood middle school with an aging auditorium, Pullens outlined the bleak findings: About 45 schools had no arts teachers and most had no alignment between elementary, middle and high school course offerings. He called on Hollywood executives to pitch in and hired Alyson Reed, a dancer and actress whose credits include playing Ms. Darbus in "High School Musical," to begin reaching out to industry contacts and coordinating donations.

Film and music studios have chipped in to help Los Angeles schools before, but their contributions tended to focus on the schools directly in their backyard: Warner Bros. has provided funding to improve auditoriums at Burbank schools. Sony Entertainment Pictures has run career workshops at Culver City schools.

But the schools with the biggest needs are in less affluent neighborhoods.

Some studio leaders said getting involved with Los Angeles schools was difficult and bureaucratic. Others were simply unaware of the depth of the district's problems, Reed said.

Kelly Koskella, president of Hollywood Rentals, which will be donating studio equipment ranging from lights to fog machines, said he was stunned to learn many Los Angeles Unified schools lack even the kind of gear used in public schools in the mid-1970s.

"It seemed very strange hearing that our schools here didn't have the type of equipment that we were using 20 and 30 years ago," Koskella said.

To date, the Los Angeles district has confirmed partnerships with Nickelodeon, Sunset Bronson Studios and Sunset Gower Studios. Reed said she and Pullens have also had encouraging meetings with many others, including Disney, Sony and CBS and hopes more will be announced soon.

Most of the donations have not reached students yet. Reed said the district is still assessing how the equipment will be dispersed.

In Shin's class, students get by with the bare minimum: an overhead projector displaying lyrics across the screen, two microphones and two standing lights placed in front of the class to make a stage-like performance space.

In a deep voice, Shin calls on students as if they're performing in a real concert in front of their peers. On a recent afternoon, they sang everything from Mexican ballads known as corridos to angst-ridden songs by Adele.

Terry Quintero, 12, had never been in a music class before and now dreams of becoming a professional singer like one of her idols, Adele. When she's singing, Terry said, she leaves everything that's troubling her behind.

"What matters right now," she said, "is this class."

## An infant's 5-month life points to hunger's spread in Yemen

AHMED AL-HAJ, Associated Press

MAGGIE MICHAEL, Associated Press

HAZYAZ, Yemen (AP) — The baby was born in war, even as planes blasted his village in Yemen. Five months later, Udai Faisal died from war: his skeletal body broke down under the ravages of malnutrition, his limbs like twigs, his cheeks sunken, his eyes dry.

He vomited yellow fluid from his nose and mouth. Then he stopped breathing.

"He didn't cry and there were no tears, just stiff," said his mother, Intissar Hezzam. "I screamed and fainted."

The spread of hunger has been the most horrific consequence of Yemen's war since Saudi Arabia and its allies, backed by the United States, launched a campaign of airstrikes and a naval blockade a year ago. The impoverished nation of 26 million people, which imports 90 percent of its food, already had one of the highest malnutrition rates in the world, but in the past year the statistics have leaped.

The number of people considered "severely food insecure" — unable to put food on the table without outside aid — went from 4.3 million to more than 7 million, according to the World Food Program. Ten of the country's 22 provinces are classified as one step away from famine.

Where before the war around 690,000 children under five suffered moderate malnutrition, now the number is 1.3 million. Even more alarming are the rates of severe acute malnutrition among children — the worst cases where the body starts to waste away — doubling from around 160,000 a year ago to 320,000 now, according to UNICEF estimates. Exact numbers for those who died from malnutrition and its complications are unknown, since the majority were likely unable to reach proper care.

The Saudi-led coalition launched its campaign on March 26, 2015, aiming to halt the advance of Shiite rebels known as Houthis who had taken over the capital, Sanaa, and stormed south. The Houthi advance was halted. But they continue to hold Sanaa and the north. In the center of the country, they battle multiple Saudi-backed factions supporting the internationally recognized government that tenuously holds the southern city of Aden.

The fighting and the heavy barrage of airstrikes have killed more than 9,000 people, including more than 3,000 civilians, according to the U.N. Human Rights Office. Coalition airstrikes appear to be "responsible for twice as many casualties as all other forces put together," Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein said. The coalition argues that the rebels often use civilians and civilian locations as shields for their fighters.

Around 2.3 million people have been driven from their homes. Strikes have destroyed storehouses, roads, schools, farms, factories, power grids and water stations. The naval blockade, enforcing a U.N. arms embargo on the rebels, has disrupted the entry of food and supplies.

The ripple effects from war have tipped a country that could already barely feed itself over the edge. The food, fuel and other supplies that do make it into the country are difficult to distribute because trucks struggle to avoid battle zones or need to scrounge for gas.

The fate of Udai illustrated the many factors, all exacerbated by war, that lead to the death of an infant.

His family lives off the pension that Udai's father, Faisal Ahmed, gets as a former soldier, about \$200 a month for him, his wife and nine other children ranging from 2 years old to 16. He used to sometimes get construction work on the side, but those jobs disappeared in the war. With food prices rising and supplies sporadic, the family eats once a day, usually yoghurt and bread, peas on a good day, said Udai's parents, both in their 30s.

The day Udai was born, warplanes from the Saudi-led coalition were striking an army base used by Houthi rebels in their district of Hazyaz, a shantytown on the southern edge of Sanaa. Shrapnel hit their one-floor, one-bedroom house where Udai's mother was in labor.

"She was screaming and delivering the baby while the bombardment was rocking the place," the father said.

Hezzam was able to breastfeed her newborn son for about 20 days, but then her milk stopped, likely from her own malnutrition. Even after childbirth, she had to collect firewood for the mud brick stove at the



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doorstep of her house. Like much of the country, electricity has long been knocked out in their neighborhood, either because of airstrikes or lack of fuel, and there's rarely cooking gas.

"I go every day to faraway places to search for the wood then carry it home on my head," she said.

The family turned to formula to feed Udai, but it wasn't always available and they couldn't always afford it. So every few days, Udai would get formula and the other days he would get sugar and water. Water trucks occasionally reach the area, but often they had to use unclean water. Even before the war, more than 13 million people in Yemen didn't have regular access to clean water, and in the past year that has risen to more than 19 million, nearly three-quarters of the population.

Within three months, Udai was suffering from diarrhea. His father took him to local clinics but was told they couldn't treat him because they didn't have supplies or he couldn't afford what they did have. Finally, on March 20, he made it to the emergency section at Al-Sabeen Hospital.

The tiny infant was suffering from severe malnutrition, diarrhea and a chest infection, said Saddam al-Azizi, head of the emergency unit. He was put on antibiotics and a feeding solution through the nose.

It was at hospital that the AP saw Udai on March 22. His arms were constantly convulsing, his emaciated legs motionless, his face gaunt and pale. When he cried, he was too dehydrated to produce tears. At around five months old, he weighed 2.4 kilograms (5.3 pounds).

"Unstable," his chart read for every day he'd been there.

Two days later, his parents took him home from the hospital. His father told the AP it was because the doctors told them it was hopeless, and he complained the staff was not giving him enough treatment. Al-Azizi said he suspected it was because the family couldn't afford to pay for the medicines. The stay at the hospital is free, but because medicines are in such short supply, families must pay for them, he said.

"It was a mistake to take him out," he said.

The treatment needed time to work. Still, al-Azizi had given Udai only a 30 percent chance of survival.

Al-Sabeen was already dealing with dozens of other malnourished children. In the first three months of the year, around 150 children have come to the hospital suffering from malnutrition, double the number in the same period last year, al-Azizi said. Around 15 died, not counting Udai.

Some parents had managed to get there from remote parts of the country. One woman described walking for four days from her mountain village outside Sanaa, carrying her emaciated daughter, who at two years old weighed only four kilograms (8.8 pounds).

Mohammed Ahmed had to bring his son here from the city of Ibb because the hospital there had no supplies. He drove the 90 miles (150 kilometers) through rebel checkpoints while warplanes struck in the area. "We arrived after a long and torturous trip," he said. His 10-month-old son Marwan, after 15 days in the hospital, now weighs 3.5 kilograms (7.7 pounds).

Hospitals and clinics around the country have suffered shortages of medicines, meaning millions live in areas that have virtually no medical care. The Saudi-led coalition has allowed humanitarian flights bringing medical supplies as well food and water in to Sanaa as well as shipments into Hodeida port, the closest one to the capital. But getting the supplies around the country is difficult. Even pre-war transportation infrastructure was poor, and now trucks often can't get through battle zones. Drivers fear getting hit by airstrikes or have to scrounge to obtain expensive gas.

Hospitals are short of fuel to keep generators running, and have been hit by airstrikes or caught up in fighting. In the battlefield city of Taiz, the Yemeni-Swedish Hospital for Children changed hands several times between rebels and Saudi-backed fighters, damaging the facility. Parents had to rush their children being treated there back to their homes, and their fate is unknown.

Udai hardly lasted three hours after being brought back home, his parents said. Ahmed, his father, said he blames Saudi Arabia's air campaign for his son's death.

"This is before the war," he said, holding up his 2-year-old son Shehab to show the difference between a child born before the war and after.

They buried the infant at the foot of the mountains nearby. His father read the Quran over the tiny grave marked only by rocks, reciting, "On God we depend."

## Mattel fought elusive cyber-thieves to get \$3M out of China

**ERIKA KINETZ, Associated Press**

EDITOR'S NOTE \_ Second of two parts on how con artists are using China to launder their ill-gotten gains.

WENZHOU, China (AP) — The email seemed unremarkable: a routine request by Mattel Inc.'s chief executive for a new vendor payment to China.

It was well-timed, arriving on Thursday, April 30, during a tumultuous period for the Los-Angeles based maker of Barbie dolls. Barbie was bombing, particularly overseas, and the CEO, Christopher Sinclair, had officially taken over only that month. Mattel had fired his predecessor.

The finance executive who got the note was naturally eager to please her new boss. She double-checked protocol. Fund transfers required approval from two high-ranking managers. She qualified and so did the CEO, according to a person familiar with the investigation who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak about the matter. He declined to reveal the finance executive's name.

Satisfied, the executive wired over \$3 million to the Bank of Wenzhou, in China.

Hours later, she mentioned the payment to Sinclair.

But he hadn't made any such request.

Frantic, Mattel executives called their U.S. bank, the police and the FBI.

The response? You're out of luck. The money's already in China.

Mattel's millions were swept up in a tide of dirty money that passes through China and that Western police are only beginning to understand. The scam the company fell victim to — known as the fake CEO or fake president scam — has cost companies, many of them American, over \$1.8 billion, according to the FBI. Most of the stolen money passes through banks in China or Hong Kong, the FBI said.

An Associated Press investigation this week showed that China is emerging as a global hub for money laundering. The dark money that courses through China has long been considered a domestic issue, with Chinese illicitly moving money for other Chinese. That's no longer the case. Mounting evidence indicates that China is becoming a global banker for the criminal economy, according to interviews with police officials, court records in the U.S. and Europe, and intelligence documents reviewed by the AP.

Years of mutual mistrust have hindered law enforcement cooperation between China and the West, adding to China's appeal as a money laundering hub. The U.S. State Department said in a report this month that China has "not cooperated sufficiently on financial investigations." China's inability to enforce U.S. court orders on China-based assets "remains a significant barrier to enhanced U.S.-China cooperation," it added.

In a regular briefing with reporters Monday, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei said that the government "places great emphasis" on fighting crimes such as money laundering and is working to expand international cooperation. "China is not, has not been, nor will be in the future a center of global money laundering," he said.

Mattel wasn't going to let go of \$3 million without a fight. What the company really needed was luck. And when it came to Mattel's China operations, luck had been in short supply.

Mattel's misadventures in China are so spectacular they've become the stuff of business school seminars. In 2007, Mattel recalled 19 million made-in-China toys, including Pixar cars covered in lead paint and Barbie sets embedded with tiny, hazardous magnets. Then, in 2009, Mattel opened the "House of Barbie," a glowing pink, six-story shrine on one of Shanghai's ritziest shopping boulevards. It had a spiral staircase encased with over 800 Barbie dolls, a spa and a fashion runway. But the flagship flopped, and Mattel closed it after just two years.

Rising costs and labor shortages weighed on China production, even as the \$5.7 billion toy giant limped back into the Chinese market with dolls — including a Violin Soloist Barbie — aimed at Chinese "tiger moms."

The thieves struck as Mattel was aggressively pushing its China business, positioning itself as a child development brand, which helped grow China sales 43 percent in 2015 over the prior year. They had done their homework, mining social media and likely hacking corporate emails to penetrate Mattel's corporate hierarchy and payment patterns, according to the person familiar with the investigation.

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The criminals had the \$3 million sent to Wenzhou, a gritty enclave on China's eastern coast that is emerging as a significant transit point in global money laundering networks. The city is the destination for 90 percent of the funds stolen through fake CEO scams in Europe, according to an intelligence memo reviewed by the AP.

Wenzhou city officials declined to comment.

Squeezed by mountains against the sea, Wenzhou is known as the birthplace of underground finance in China.

Decades of official neglect allowed an unusual, business-oriented culture to thrive here. After Mao's anti-capitalist rule, a private economy began to re-emerge in Wenzhou in the late 1970s. But those first peasant entrepreneurs — and the informal financing mechanisms that sprang up around them — inhabited a legal gray zone, said Chen Zongshi, an assistant sociology professor at Zhejiang University. It would be a decade before Wenzhou was officially authorized to develop private enterprise, according to Zongshi. Those regulations were among the first in China.

Poverty, underdevelopment and a lack of arable land also made Wenzhou an ideal place to leave. Strivers heading for Europe and North America poured out of Wenzhou, and in their wake, the informal financial systems that served the area's entrepreneurs went global.

Today, money that ends up in Wenzhou doesn't have to stay there — thanks in part to the pawn shops and corner grocery stores that quietly double as money-transfer agents, said Yan Lixin, the secretary general of the China Center for Anti-Money Laundering Studies at Shanghai's Fudan University.

"From Wenzhou, the money could scatter to any other place," he said.

Luck arrived for Mattel in the form of a bank holiday. Friday, May 1, was Labor Day in China.

That, crucially, gave Mattel time. The company notified Chinese police, who quickly launched a criminal investigation, according to a letter from Mattel thanking Chinese authorities, which was obtained by the AP.

When the Bank of Wenzhou opened the following Monday, a China-based anti-fraud executive from Mattel strode past the sculpted lions that flank the entrance to the bank's headquarters, marched upstairs to the International Business Department and presented a letter from the FBI, according to two people familiar with the investigation who were not authorized to speak publicly.

Chinese police froze the account that very morning. Two days later, on May 6, Mattel got its money back, according to the letter.

Mattel wrote that the Wenzhou police "showed a great sense of responsibility and enforcement capability."

"We hereby reiterate our appreciation," Mattel wrote. "We also hope that this case can pave the way for future international cooperation in fighting similar transnational crimes."

International cooperation has grown in importance for Beijing. China's ruling Communist Party is campaigning to purge corruption from its ranks, pursuing officials who have fled overseas with ill-gotten wealth, in an effort to shore up its legitimacy as China's economy slows.

"If we need help getting corrupt officials or bribes back, we need to offer assistance when other countries need it too," said Huang Feng, Director of the Institute for International Criminal Law at Beijing Normal University. "The problem is not that the Chinese authorities have been uncooperative, it's that we don't have a relevant legal framework to implement."

He said Mattel fought the fraud correctly, imploring Chinese authorities to use Chinese law to get the money back.

The Bank of Wenzhou confirmed that its staff handled Mattel's case but declined to comment. Police in Wenzhou confirmed that an investigation was ongoing but declined to discuss details. Mattel also declined to comment for this story, citing the ongoing investigation.

Since its near miss in Wenzhou, Mattel has tracked a dozen more attempted hacks.

It's still not clear who was behind the scam.

## Justice Department cracks iPhone; withdraws legal action

**TAMI ABDOLLAH, Associated Press**

**BRANDON BAILEY, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — The FBI said Monday it successfully used a mysterious technique without Apple Inc.'s help to hack into the iPhone used by a gunman in a mass shooting in California, effectively ending a pitched court battle between the Obama administration and one of the world's leading technology companies.

The government asked a federal judge to vacate a disputed order forcing Apple to help the FBI break into the iPhone, saying it was no longer necessary. The court filing in U.S. District Court for the Central District of California provided no details about how the FBI did it or who showed it how.

The FBI is now reviewing the information on the iPhone, the Justice Department said in a statement.

In response, Apple said in a statement that it will continue to increase the security of its products. While saying it will still provide some help to the government, "as we have done all along," the company reiterated its position that the government's demand was wrong.

"This case should never have been brought," Apple said in its statement.

Both sides left important questions unanswered: Who showed the FBI how to break into iPhones? How did the government bypass the security features that Apple has invested millions of dollars to build into its flagship product? Are newer iPhones vulnerable to the same hacking technique? Will the FBI share its information with scores of state and local police agencies that said they also need to break into the iPhones of criminal suspects? Will the FBI reveal to Apple how it broke its security? Did the FBI find anything useful on the iPhone?

The surprise development also punctured the temporary perception that Apple's security might have been good enough to keep consumers' personal information safe even from the U.S. government — with the tremendous resources it can expend when it wants to uncover something.

The FBI used the technique to access data on an iPhone used by gunman Syed Farook, who died with his wife in a gun battle with police after they killed 14 people in San Bernardino, California, in December. The iPhone was found in a vehicle the day after the shooting; two personal phones were found destroyed so completely that the FBI couldn't recover information from them.

U.S. magistrate Sheri Pym of California last month ordered Apple to provide the FBI with software to help it hack into Farook's work-issued iPhone. The order touched off a debate pitting digital privacy rights against national security concerns.

Apple was headed for a courtroom showdown with the government last week, until federal prosecutors abruptly asked for a postponement so they could test a potential solution brought to them by a party outside of the U.S. government last Sunday. Technical experts had said there might be a few ways an outsider could gain access to the phone, but the FBI insisted repeatedly until then that only Apple had the ability to override the iPhone's security. FBI Director James Comey said the bureau even went to the National Security Agency, which did not have the ability to get into the phone.

A law enforcement official said the FBI was successful in unlocking the iPhone over the weekend. The official spoke to reporters on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to publicly comment. The official said federal law enforcement would continue to aid its local and state partners with gaining evidence in cases — implying that the method would be shared with them.

First in line is likely, Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus Vance, who told a U.S. House panel earlier this month that he has 205 iPhones his investigators can't access data from in criminal investigations. Apple is also opposing requests to help extract information from 14 Apple devices in California, Illinois, Massachusetts and New York.

The case drew international attention and highlighted a growing friction between governments and the tech industry. Apple and other tech companies have said they feel increasing need to protect their customers' data from hackers and unfriendly intruders, while police and other government authorities have warned that encryption and other data-protection measures are making it more difficult for investigators

to track criminals and dangerous extremists.

Apple CEO Tim Cook had argued that helping the FBI hack the iPhone would set a dangerous precedent, making all iPhone users vulnerable, if Apple complied with the court order. Cook said Congress should take up the issue.

The withdrawal of the court process also takes away Apple's ability to legally request details on the method the FBI used in this case. Apple attorneys said last week that they hoped the government would share that information with them if it proved successful.

The encrypted phone was protected by a passcode that included security protocols: a time delay and self-destruct feature that erased the phone's data after 10 tries. The two features made it impossible for the government to repeatedly and continuously test passcodes in what's known as a brute-force attack. Comey said with those features removed, the FBI could break into the phone in 26 minutes.

The official said the method used to unlock the phone appears to work on the iPhone 5C operating a version of iOS 9. In late 2014, Apple updated its operating system so the passcode is linked to the phone's overall encryption. The Cupertino-based company said that made it impossible for it to access data on the phone.

The Justice Department wouldn't comment on any future disclosure of the method to Apple or the public.

The government's announcement was praised by Stephen Larson, a Los Angeles attorney who filed a brief in support of the Justice Department's case and represents seven families of those killed in the attack. "For this to have dragged out in court battles would not have served the interests of either" the victims or law enforcement, he said.

Alex Abdo, an attorney with the American Civil Liberties Union, which filed a brief supporting Apple in its case, said the case is far from settled and it was "just a delay of an inevitable fight" about whether the government can force a company like Apple to undermine the security of its products to facilitate an investigation.

## **Man shot by police after drawing weapon at US Capitol**

**ERICA WERNER, AP Congressional Correspondent**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Police shot a man on Monday after he pulled a weapon at a U.S. Capitol checkpoint as spring tourists thronged Washington, authorities said. The suspect was previously known to police, who last October arrested him for disrupting House proceedings and yelling he was a "Prophet of God."

U.S. Capitol Police identified the man as 66-year-old Larry R. Dawson of Tennessee. He was charged with assault with a deadly weapon and assault on a police officer while armed, both criminal offenses in the District of Columbia.

Dawson was taken to a local hospital, where police said he was in stable but critical condition. A female bystander also sustained non-life-threatening injuries.

After his arrest last year, Dawson was issued a "stay away order" by D.C. Superior Court in October, telling him to keep away from the Capitol grounds, court documents show.

The U.S. Capitol was on lockdown for about an hour Monday and the White House also was briefly locked down. As the capital teemed with spring tourists in town to view the cherry blossoms, staff members and visitors to the Capitol were rushed into offices and told to shelter in place.

"We do believe this is an act of a single person who has frequented the Capitol grounds before and there is no reason to believe that this is anything more than a criminal act," Capitol Chief of Police Matthew R. Verderosa told reporters. He said it was unclear how many officers fired their guns. Initial reports had said an officer was injured but that proved wrong.

Verderosa said the suspect's vehicle had been found on Capitol grounds and was being seized. On Monday evening, all roads had been reopened and the U.S. Capitol complex had returned to normal operations, officials said in a statement.

George Washington University Hospital spokeswoman Susan Griffiths said it had treated one patient from the Capitol incident for minor injuries and planned to release the patient shortly, but she did not

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identify the person.

Monday's event unfolded with Congress on recess and lawmakers back in their districts. House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., issued a statement thanking Capitol Police, as did other congressional leaders. "This evening our thoughts and prayers are with all those who faced danger today," Ryan said.

According to court documents, Dawson was arrested at the U.S. Capitol in October after he stood up and shouted Bible verses in the gallery of the House chamber. An online court record says he was charged with disorderly and disruptive conduct on the grounds of the Capitol and assaulting, resisting or interfering with a police officer. He was also ordered to stay away from the building and grounds.

Dawson did not return for a scheduled hearing in November. In a letter filed with his case, he says he will "not comply with the court order, nor will I surrender myself unto your office."

"No longer will I let myself be governed by flesh and blood, but only by the Divine Love of God," he wrote, adding four exclamation points.

Other court paperwork said Dawson said he was previously in the Army and was honorably discharged in 1971.

An attorney listed as representing him in the case from October, John Copacino, did not immediately return a telephone message and an e-mail requesting comment Monday afternoon.

Records show Dawson was previously licensed in Tennessee to work as a funeral director. After his license expired in 2004, the state's Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers voted three times to deny requests from Dawson to reinstate his license, citing the "applicant's lack of good moral character."

Kevin Walters, a spokesman for the state funeral board, said the denial resulted from an incident that occurred while Dawson was working as a school bus driver in a Nashville suburb. Dawson had written a letter to a young girl saying that God had told him to have sex with her, Walters said.

Visitors were turned away from the Capitol in the immediate aftermath of the shooting Monday as emergency vehicles flooded the street and the plaza on the building's eastern side. Police, some carrying long guns, cordoned off the streets immediately around the building.

Cathryn Leff of Temecula, California, in town to lobby with the California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists, said she was going through security at the main entrance to the Capitol Visitors Center when police told people to leave immediately.

Outside, on the plaza just to the east of the Capitol, other officers told those there to "get down behind this wall," she said. "I heard what sounded like two shots off to my left." After a while, police told her and others to keep running. "I felt like I was in a movie. It didn't feel real at all."

From back home in their districts, many lawmakers got in touch with staff to ensure all were safe, and posted thanks on Twitter as it appeared they were.

Earlier in the day, officials conducted an unrelated shelter-in-place drill at the Capitol.

## Trump campaign planning to open Washington, DC office

**STEVE PEOPLES, Associated Press**

**JILL COLVIN, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republican presidential front-runner Donald Trump's campaign is planning to open a new office in Washington, D.C. that will house its delegate selection and management team and its congressional relations team. It's a sign that the billionaire businessman's campaign is entering a new phase as he inches closer to securing his party's nomination.

The office, which will be the campaign's first major expansion of senior staff outside of New York, will serve as a home base for staff overseeing outreach to Congress as well as some policy staffers and others, said campaign senior adviser Barry Bennett. He's hoping to open the office as soon as next week, after space is found and a lease signed.

The move comes as the campaign appears to be entering a new phase as attention shifts from winning in early-voting states to ensuring that Trump has the delegates he needs to win the nomination even if he falls short of locking down the 1,237 delegates he needs to secure the nomination ahead of the Republican

convention in Cleveland this summer.

The campaign has brought on a number of Washington area-based staffers in recent weeks, including Bennett, as Trump faces the uncertainty of a potentially contested convention and continued resistance from many quarters of his party.

Bennett rejected the idea that the office was an acknowledgement that the campaign needs to build better relationships with Republicans on the Hill, but said it would nonetheless help with those efforts.

"It's an acknowledgement that he's the nominee: he's the presumptive nominee," he said. "Having an office here in Washington and working with them every day will make it a lot easier to do that."

In addition to the new space, the campaign also announced Monday that it has hired Paul Manafort, a seasoned Washington hand with decades of convention experience to be its convention manager. Manafort, who has known Trump for decades, will oversee the campaign's "entire convention presence," said Bennett, including a potential contested convention.

That hire was first reported by the New York Times.

The campaign will also be naming congressional chairs and rolling out new endorsements in the next week or so, Bennett said.

## Obama to address nation's growing opioid problem

**KEVIN FREKING, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Obama administration will issue a proposed rule Tuesday that aims to increase medication-based treatment for tens of thousands of people addicted to opioids.

The proposed rule, along with a commitment from 60 medical schools to heighten training for prescribing opioids, will coincide with President Barack Obama's visit to Atlanta where he will participate in a panel discussion moderated by Dr. Sanjay Gupta at the National Rx Drug Abuse & Heroin Summit.

Opioids are highly addictive drugs that include both prescription painkillers like codeine and morphine, as well as illegal narcotics, primarily heroin. Deaths linked to opioids soared to more than 29,000 in 2014, the highest number on record.

Congress is attempting to allocate more resources to confront the problem — one of few areas where lawmakers from both parties might reach agreement during the election year. Obama is seeking \$1.1 billion in new federal funds to expand treatment for opioid addiction, which is about triple current levels.

Michael Botticelli, director of the National Drug Control Policy at the White House, told reporters in advance of the president's trip that the extra money being sought is an acknowledgement from Obama that "there is still a significant treatment gap for people who need it." Most of the money would fund agreements with states to expand medication-assisted treatment.

Along those lines, the Department of Health and Human Services will issue a proposed rule allowing physicians who prescribe Buprenorphine to give it to more patients. The proposed rule would expand the limit from 100 patients to 200.

The department also will issue guidance to programs that allow intravenous drug addicts to trade dirty syringes for clean ones in hopes of preventing disease. Congress recently allowed federal money to be used for certain expenses, such as staff and equipment, but not for the syringes themselves.

Officials also are focused on better educating prescribers. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recently issued new guidelines stating that physical therapy, exercise and over-the-counter pain medication should be used before turning to painkillers like morphine and oxycodone. Sixty universities will announce that their students will have to learn prescriber information in line with the new guidelines in order to graduate.

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## Asian stocks mostly lower following Wall Street drop

**YURI KAGEYAMA, AP Business Writer**

TOKYO (AP) — Asian stocks mostly slipped in narrow trading Tuesday following a drop on Wall Street disappointed by U.S. economic data.

KEEPING SCORE: Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 lost 0.2 percent in morning trading to 17,106.54. South Korea's Kospi added 0.2 percent to 1,986.23. Hong Kong's Hang Seng was down 0.1 percent at 20,320.32, while the Shanghai Composite dipped 0.6 percent to 2,939.32.

WALL STREET: The Dow Jones industrial average rose 19.66 points, or 0.1 percent, to 17,535.39. The Standard & Poor's 500 index added 1.11 points to 2,037.05, ending a three-day losing streak. The Nasdaq composite index lost 6.72 points, or 0.1 percent, to 4,766.79. Stocks have flagged over the last few days after a five-week rally.

JAPAN MIXED: Japan released consumption data that showed household spending was growing but retail sales were weakening. The fluctuating dollar has also contributed to directionless trading lately.

THE QUOTE: "There are plenty of opportunities to evaluate the state of the U.S. economy this week, and markets globally will look for cues from ... Fed members and non-farm payrolls on Friday," said Alex Furber, senior client services executive, at CMC Markets in Singapore.

ENERGY: Benchmark U.S. crude fell 13 cents to \$39.26 a barrel in New York. It fell 7 cents to \$39.39 Monday. Brent crude, used to price international oils, lost 16 cents to \$40.71 a barrel in London.

CURRENCIES: The euro rose to \$1.1193 from \$1.1170. The dollar edged up to 113.61 yen from 113.52 yen.

## Today in History The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, March 29, the 89th day of 2016. There are 277 days left in the year.

Today's Highlights in History:

On March 29, 1951, Julius and Ethel Rosenberg were convicted in New York of conspiracy to commit espionage for the Soviet Union. (They were executed in June 1953.) The Rodgers and Hammerstein musical "The King and I" opened on Broadway.

On this date:

In 1638, Swedish colonists settled in present-day Delaware.

In 1790, the 10th president of the United States, John Tyler, was born in Charles City County, Virginia.

In 1812, the first White House wedding took place as Lucy Payne Washington, the sister of first lady Dolley Madison, married Supreme Court Justice Thomas Todd.

In 1912, British explorer Robert Falcon Scott, his doomed expedition stranded in an Antarctic blizzard after failing to be the first to reach the South Pole, wrote the last words of his journal: "For Gods sake look after our people."

In 1936, German Chancellor Adolf Hitler claimed overwhelming victory in a plebiscite on his policies.

In 1943, World War II rationing of meat, fats and cheese began.

In 1962, Jack Paar hosted NBC's "Tonight" show for the final time, although the network aired a repeat the following night. (Johnny Carson debuted as host the following October.)

In 1971, Army Lt. William L. Calley Jr. was convicted of murdering 22 Vietnamese civilians in the My Lai (mee ly) massacre. (Calley ended up serving three years under house arrest.) A jury in Los Angeles recommended the death penalty for Charles Manson and three female followers for the 1969 Tate-La Bianca murders. (The sentences were later commuted.)

In 1973, the last United States combat troops left South Vietnam, ending America's direct military involvement in the Vietnam War.

In 1974, eight Ohio National Guardsmen were indicted on federal charges stemming from the shooting deaths of four students at Kent State University. (The charges were later dismissed.) Chinese farmers digging a well discovered the Terracota Warriors, an "army" of sculpted soldiers dating from the third century B.C.



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In 1984, under cover of early morning darkness, the Baltimore Colts football team left its home city of three decades and moved to Indianapolis.

In 1992, Democratic presidential front-runner Bill Clinton acknowledged experimenting with marijuana "a time or two" while attending Oxford University, adding, "I didn't inhale and I didn't try it again."

Ten years ago: Hamas formally took over the Palestinian government, with Ismail Haniyeh (IHS'-may-el hah-NEE'-yuh) sworn in as the new prime minister. The U.N. Security Council demanded that Iran suspend uranium enrichment, the first time the body directly urged Tehran to clear up suspicions that it was seeking nuclear weapons. Former Liberian President Charles Taylor, accused of war crimes, was flown to Sierra Leone after he was captured in northern Nigeria. (Taylor received a 50-year sentence in 2012 for sponsoring atrocities committed by the Revolutionary United Front rebels in Sierra Leone in exchange for "blood diamonds.")

Five years ago: Gunmen held an Iraqi government center in Tikrit (tih-KREET') hostage in a grisly siege that ended with the deaths of at least 56 people, including three councilmen, plus the attackers, who blew themselves up. A seriously ill 73-year-old British woman was accidentally dropped into the bitterly cold Norwegian Sea as rescue workers took her off the cruise ship Ocean Countess (Janet Richardson later died at a hospital).

One year ago: A two-day Arab summit in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, ended with a vow to defeat Iranian-backed Shiite rebels in Yemen and the formal unveiling of plans to form a joint Arab intervention force.

Today's Birthdays: Political commentator John McLaughlin is 89. Author Judith Guest is 80. Former British Prime Minister Sir John Major is 73. Comedian Eric Idle is 73. Composer Vangelis is 73. Basketball Hall of Famer Walt Frazier is 71. Singer Bobby Kimball (Toto) is 69. Actor Bud Cort is 68. Actor Brendan Gleeson is 61. Actor Christopher Lawford is 61. Pro and College Football Hall of Famer Earl Campbell is 61. Actress Marina Sirtis is 61. International Gymnastics Hall of Famer Kurt Thomas is 60. Actor Christopher Lambert is 59. Rock singer Perry Farrell (Porno for Pyros; Jane's Addiction) is 57. Comedian-actress Amy Sedaris is 55. Model Elle Macpherson is 53. Movie director Michel Hazanavicius (mee-SHEHL' ah-zah-nah-VEE'-see-oos) is 49. Rock singer-musician John Popper (Blues Traveler) is 49. Actress Lucy Lawless is 48. Country singer Regina Leigh (Regina Regina) is 48. Country singer Brady Seals is 47. Former White House Press Secretary Robert Gibbs is 45. CBS News correspondent Lara Logan is 45. Actor Sam Hazeldine is 44. International Tennis Hall of Famer Jennifer Capriati is 40. Actor Chris D'Elia is 36. Pop singer Kelly Sweet is 28.

Thought for Today: "A ship is safe in harbor, but that's not what ships are for." — William G.T. Shedd, American theologian (1820-1894).