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Manager Wanted

Part Time Apartment Manager wanted. Responsible for showing apartments, handing out applications, overseeing maintenance and other duties as needed. Up to \$25 per hour. Previous sale experience a plus. Send email of interest to Grotnmnger@gmail.com

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

The cardboard/paper

recycling trailer at the school is **Open**

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Thursday, June 23

Anniversary: Henry & Vera Musil.

Birthdays: Twila Ruden, Kaycie Hawkins, Shaylee Peterson, Alyssa Sippel, Sarah Sippel, Megan Baule, Madeline Flihs, Branden Abeln.

4:00pm: Groton Transit Fundraiser

6:00pm: NESDU10 in Britton (Groton Blue vs. Britton in double header)

6:00pm: NESDU10 in Groton (Aberdeen vs. Groton Blue in double header)

6:00pm: NESDU12 in Sisseton (Sisseton vs. Groton Red in double header)

6:00pm: NESDU12 in Webster (Webster vs. Groton Blue in double header)

6:00pm: T-Ball Scrimmage

Friday, June 24

Chambers Best Ball Tourney

Junior Teeners at Milbank Tourney

Legion at Redfield Tourney

Anniversary: Mark & June Thompson

Birthdays: Jeremy Weber, Eunice Alberts, Ellie Sippel

6:00pm: Teeners host Webster (DH)

Saturday, June 25

Junior Teeners at Milbank Tourney

Legion at Redfield Tourney

U12 Softball at Ellendale Tourney

Birthdays: Dodie Neumann, Carlie Peterson, Sydney Locke.

4:30pm: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church Mass

Apts for Rent

1 bedroom and HUGE 2 bedroom, 2 bath apartments available NOW! All utilities included except A/C, 1 bedroom \$504 and HUGE 2 bedroom 2 bath \$674 Please call or text 239-849-7674

Paul's Lawn Care	 <p>Paul, Julianna and Jeslyn Kosel 605/397-7460</p>
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Camille Sippel of Groton receives stipend for research project at UNL

LINCOLN, NE (06/21/2016)-- Camille Sippel of Groton is among 325 undergraduates who have been awarded stipends by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to participate in research with a faculty mentor during the 2016-17 school year.

Sippel, a economics major, will participate in the project "Apple v. Samsung and the Technology Race" as part of UNL's Undergraduate Creative Activities and Research Experience (UCARE) Program, which supports undergraduates to work with faculty mentors in research or creative activities. Undergraduate students receive stipends of \$2,400 to engage in intensive research or creative activity for 10 hours per week. The students' projects span across academic disciplines including engineering, chemistry, modern languages and literatures, psychology, art and art history, architecture, special education, and fisheries and wildlife.

Service Notice: Reta Washnok

Services for Reta Washnok, 100, of Aberdeen will be 11 a.m., Saturday, June 25, 2016 at the United Methodist Church, Groton. Rev. Eldon Reich will officiate. Burial will follow in the Conde Cemetery.

Visitation will be held at Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel on Friday from 5-7 p.m.

Reta fell asleep June 21, 2016 at Avera Mother Joseph Manor in Aberdeen.



Left to right are Aubray Wanner, her father, Shaun Wanner, and Tom Mahan, president of Groton Kiwanis Club. Lee Schinkel was program leader for Groton Kiwanis, last Wednesday. Lee's guests were Aubray Wanner, and her father. Aubray presented several vocal solos, which brought her first place records, in talent contests in Brown County.

School Board Agenda

Groton Area School District #06-6 School Board Meeting June 27, 2016 – 7:30 PM; GHS Conference Room

1. Call to Order with members present. Approve agenda as proposed or amended.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Approval of North Central Special Education Co-Op (NCSEC) agenda items...as school of record.

2. Approval of year ending District bills.

3. Approval of year ending North Central Special Education Co-Op bills.

OLD/CONTINUING BUSINESS:

1. Open Forum for Public Participation...in accordance with Board Policy & Guidelines.

2. School Board Committee Reports:

a. Building, Grounds, & Transportation: Lars Hanson, Merle Harder, Marty Weismantel

b. Personnel, Policy, & Curriculum: Dorene Nelson, Grant Rix

c. Negotiations: Kelly Kjelden, Steve Smith

3. Second reading and approval of proposed MS/HS Student Handbook changes.

4. Second reading and approval of proposed Elementary Student Handbook changes.

5. Administrative Reports: (a) Superintendent's Report; (b) Principals' Reports; (c) Business Manager Report

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Authorize Business Manager to make necessary Contingent Fund transfers to cover year-ending deficit accounts in General Fund.

2. Adopt Supplemental Budget for Capital Outlay and Special Education in accordance with SDCL 13-11-3.12.

3. Open and approve fuel oil, diesel/gas quotes.

4. Open and approve newspaper quotes and designate Official Newspaper.

5. Amend ESY work agreements of Joni Groeblichhoff and Gail Kyar.

6. Approve hiring Nicholas Strom as Assistant Boys Basketball Coach for 2016-2017.

7. Other items, as may be appropriate or as deemed necessary.

ADJOURN

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No longer are the drinking fountains at the baseball field in disrepair. Thanks to Jim Lane, the has fixed them up so they look nice and are fully operational.

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Handicap spots have been painted and the Groton American Legion parking lot is striped for parking spots. The work was done recently.

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Today in Weather History

June 23, 1914: A destructive, estimated F3 tornado moved east across Altamont Township in Brown County. All buildings were destroyed on at least four farms. A man was killed trying to keep his family from being blown out of a shallow cellar.

Another storm moved east from the southeastern part of Watertown to north of Goodwin. Over 200 homes were heavily damaged at Watertown by both an estimated F2 tornado and downburst winds. Barns were destroyed on three farms east of Watertown. The estimated cost was at \$200,000.

June 23, 2002: A powerful supercell thunderstorm produced six tornados from eastern McPherson County and across northern Brown County during the evening hours. The first tornado to touchdown was a brief F0, and occurred 6.4 miles northeast of Leola and resulted in no damage. The second tornado was an F1 and touched down 8.5 miles northeast of Leola and crossed over into Brown County where it dissipated 9 miles northwest of Barnard. This tornado brought down many trees and a barn and caused damage to the siding and the roof of a farmhouse in McPherson County. A third weak satellite F0 tornado occurred following the dissipation of the second tornado and resulted in no damage. A fourth, stronger F3 tornado developed 6 miles west of Barnard and moved east before dissipating 3 miles southeast of Barnard. This tornado brought down some high power lines along with a support tower and tossed a pickup truck 100 yards into a group of trees. The pickup truck was totaled. The tornado caused extensive damage to two farmhouses, several farm buildings, and farm equipment. One farmhouse lost the garage and had many trees completely snapped off down low and debarked. The fifth tornado developed 5 miles southeast of Barnard and became a violent F4 tornado. This tornado caused damage to one farmhouse, several outbuildings, trees, and equipment as it moved northeast and strengthened. The tornado then completely demolished two unoccupied homes, several outbuildings, along with destroying or damaging some farm equipment before dissipating 7.6 miles northeast of Barnard. The sixth tornado was a weak satellite F0, which occurred with this violent tornado and caused no damage. The F4 tornado was the first recorded in Brown County and one of few recorded in South Dakota. The total estimated property loss exceeded a million dollars.

1944: The deadliest and strongest tornado for the state of West Virginia occurred on this day. The Shinnston Tornado that ravaged a path of destruction from Shinnston to Cheat Mountain, then on to Maryland and ending in Pennsylvania in the Allegheny Mountains, is the only twister to produce F4 damage in West Virginia. This tornado killed 103 people. Click [HERE](#) for more information from the History Channel.

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

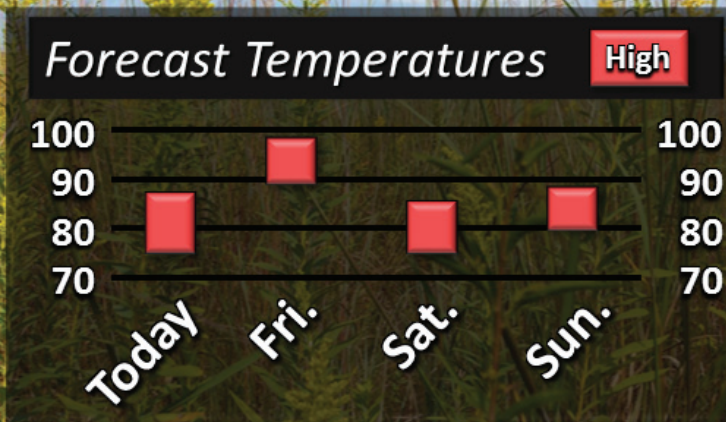
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Today	Tonight	Friday	Friday Night	Saturday	Saturday Night	Sunday
						
Mostly Sunny	Mostly Clear	Hot and Breezy	Partly Cloudy and Breezy then Partly Cloudy	Slight Chance T-storms and Breezy	Mostly Clear	Sunny then Sunny and Breezy
High: 79 °F	Low: 61 °F	High: 93 °F	Low: 71 °F	High: 85 °F	Low: 59 °F	High: 83 °F

Hot and Humid Conditions Expected on Friday

- **Today: Mostly Sunny**
- **Friday: Breezy, Hot & Humid with Heat Indices of 90 - 100°**
- **Saturday: Chance of morning showers/thunderstorms, then becoming Breezy**



National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD
weather.gov/Aberdeen

 NWSAberdeen

Created: 6/23/2016 4:58 AM

 @NWSAberdeen



Published on: 06/23/2016 at 5:08AM

Breezy northwest winds will diminish overnight as dry high pressure settles in to the region tonight into Thursday. Temperatures will fall into the 50s overnight, before rebounding into the upper 70s to upper 80s on Thursday. Look for breezy southerly winds to allow temperatures to rise into the upper 80s to near 100 degrees on Friday, with the highest temperatures across central South Dakota.

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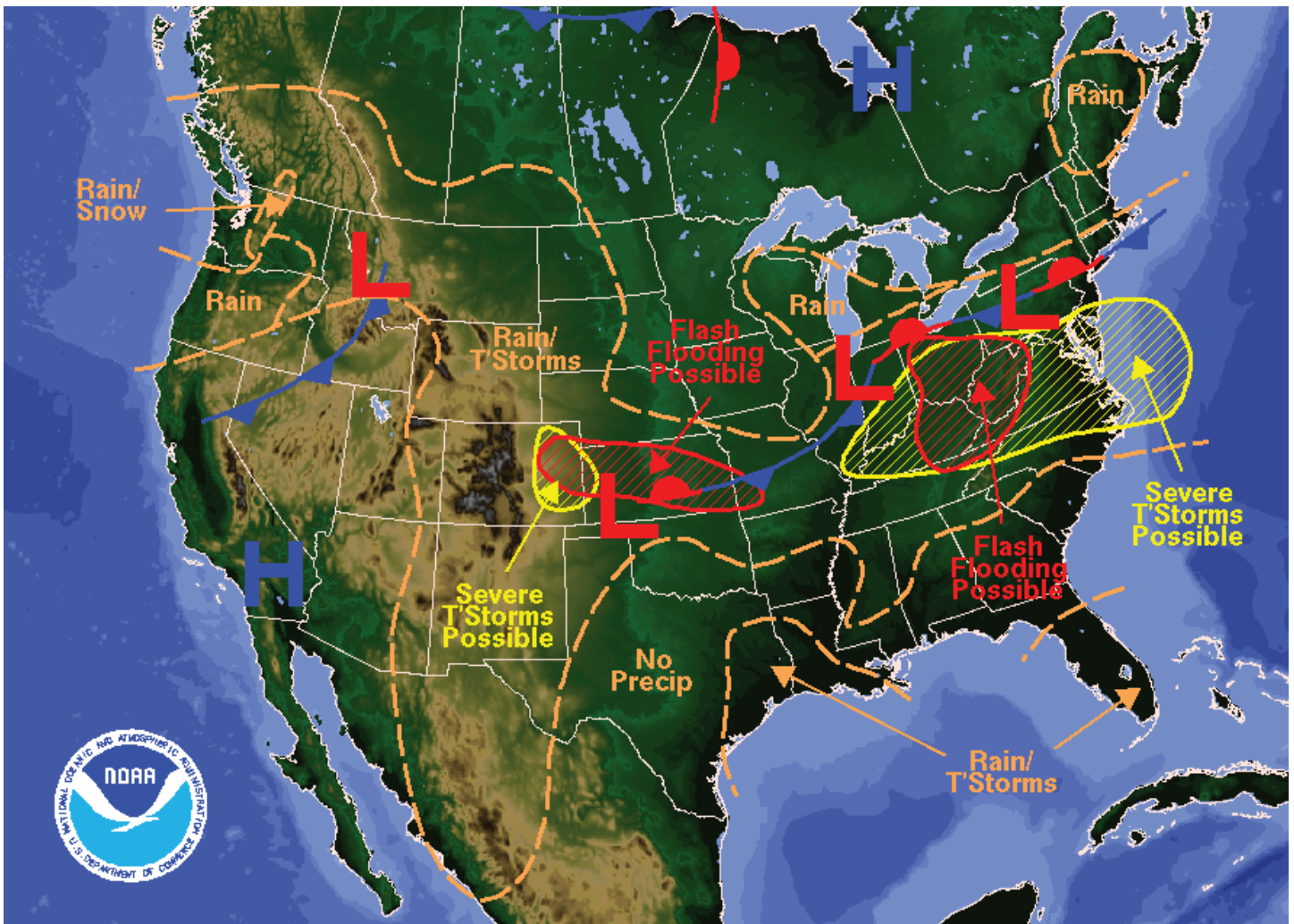
Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 81.9 F at 3:29 PM
Heat Index: 81.0 F at 12:19 PM
Low Outside Temp: 61.8 F at 11:13 PM
High Gust: 35.0 Mph at 3:30 AM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 102° in 1937
Record Low: 33 in 1942
Average High: 80°F
Average Low: 56°F
Average Precip in June: 2.84
Precip to date in June: 1.67
Average Precip to date: 9.98
Precip Year to Date: 6.66
Sunset Tonight: 9:26 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:46 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Thu, Jun 23, 2016, issued 4:29 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McReynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts



"MY FATHER KNOWS!"

A customer was watching young James help his father move boxes of shoes from one location to another. The father would place boxes of shoes in his arms and then he would move them to another location. Seeing the pile grow higher and higher in the boy's arms, he politely asked, "Son, I don't see how you can carry any more. Isn't that too much for you?"

Cheerfully he responded, "Sir, my father knows how much I can carry."

Paul, in his letter to the Corinthians, wanted to give them a burst of encouragement as they faced the temptations in a sinful culture. So, he said, "God is faithful. He will keep the temptation from becoming so strong that you can't stand up against it." In other words, "He knows how much you can carry."

No one is immune from the temptations of life. Even if we feel that we are being singled out by God for a special examination, we must realize that others have faced similar temptations and have successfully resisted them. We have God's Word that He will always give us the strength to face the temptations and avoid sinning – if we choose to.

The issue is not about being able to face and flee temptation; the issue is whether or not we want to.

Prayer: Help us, Lord, to realize that Your Son faced every temptation that we will face, yet remained sinless. May we, as He did, call on You for help. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: 1 Corinthians 10:13 No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

News from the Associated Press

Daugaard names day for post-traumatic stress injuries

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Gov. Dennis Daugaard has proclaimed there will be a “Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Day” this month.

Daugaard says that Monday will be a day to think about the treatment, symptoms and causes of post-traumatic stress injuries.

Larry Zimmerman is secretary of the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs. Zimmerman says it’s important to make sure that veterans embrace their “invisible wounds” in a timely and confident manner.

He says everyone should help raise awareness about post-traumatic stress injuries.

Washington state agency seeks denial of oil-terminal project

PHUONG LE, Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) — A Washington state agency in charge of protecting millions of acres of state land from wildfires is opposing a proposal to build an oil-by-rail terminal in Vancouver, citing risks of blazes from increased train traffic and other concerns.

The Department of Natural Resources urged a state energy panel to recommend that the project be rejected, according to a brief filed ahead of hearings that begin Monday.

The city of Vancouver also filed a brief stating its opposition to the project.

The Department of Natural Resources said that based on the evidence, the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council cannot meet its obligations to assure the public that there are adequate safeguards and that the project will have minimal environmental impacts.

The council, which oversees the siting and permitting of large energy projects, will make a recommendation to Gov. Jay Inslee, who has the final say.

Beginning Monday, the panel will hear testimony from numerous witnesses during trial-like proceedings lasting several weeks.

“We’re all very concerned about the lack of safety and the probability that bad things will happen around derailments or other accidents,” Public Lands Commissioner Peter Goldmark said in an interview Wednesday. “We’re trying to persuade both (the energy council) and the governor that this is not a wise move. It’s not safe.”

In its filing, the Department of Natural Resources said the project would “create an increased risk of wildfire ignition along every mile of track used, both from heat and sparks created by increased daily rail traffic and from catastrophic accidents.”

It says state firefighting forces aren’t equipped to handle those risks.

Tesoro Corp. and Savage Cos., operating as Vancouver Energy, want to build a rail-to-marine oil transfer terminal along the Columbia River that can handle an average of 360,000 barrels of crude a day. The facility would receive an average of four crude oil trains a day. The oil would temporarily be stored on site and then loaded onto marine vessels for transport to refineries on the West Coast.

Vancouver Energy says the project can be done safely and will provide jobs and tax revenue as well as reduce dependency on foreign oil.

“We live in the community. We work in the community. We play in the community, so it’s obviously important to us to make sure this is done safely and in an environmentally safe way,” Jared Larrabee,

general manager for Vancouver Energy, said in an interview last week.

Tribal, environmental and other groups have intervened in the proceedings to oppose the project. They plan to raise concerns about the risk of train derailments, the potential for a catastrophic oil spill into the Columbia River, public health issues, tribal fishing access and toxic pollution.

Mission man gets prison time for assault with crow bar

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A Mission man has been sentenced to nearly four years in prison for seriously injuring a man with a crow bar.

U.S. District Judge Roberto Lange has sentenced 26-year-old Reuben One Star to 46 months in prison, followed by three years of supervised release. One Star earlier pleaded guilty to the charge of assault with a dangerous weapon stemming from the attack in October 2015 at the victim's home in Mission.

Federal authorities say One Star was intoxicated when he hit the victim in the face with a crow bar. The blow left the victim unconscious, broke his nose and upper jaw and caused substantial facial lacerations. Authorities say the victim's abdomen also showed a crow bar-shaped contusion.

One Star is under the custody of the U.S. Marshals Service.

Daugaard: No special session to consider Medicaid expansion

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Gov. Dennis Daugaard said Wednesday he won't call a special session to consider Medicaid expansion, delaying potential legislative debate over opening the program to roughly 50,000 more residents past the November election and into 2017.

The Republican governor, who had floated the idea of a special session for months, heard from lawmakers who want more time to study the proposal and would like to wait until after the presidential election to consider it, Daugaard said in a statement.

The move is a blow to Democrats pushing expansion. Senate Minority Leader Billie Sutton said it would remain their top priority when lawmakers gather for the 2017 session.

"Medicaid coverage saves lives, so in the meantime, people are going to continue dying because we won't expand Medicaid," Sutton said, criticizing a "faction of extremely conservative individuals" unwilling to consider the plan.

Daugaard's stance marks a departure from other GOP governors nationwide who have resisted expanding Medicaid as part of the federal health care overhaul.

He has proposed broadening eligibility for the health coverage program for low-income and disabled people, as long as the state's share of the cost is covered by savings. Daugaard told The Associated Press last month that a federal move to take on more Medicaid costs for Native American enrollees would allow South Dakota to cut spending enough to offset expansion.

But Daugaard said then that he also had to weigh expansion's chances of passing through the Republican-held Legislature.

"If there's no possibility, then I'm not going to call a session and waste everyone's time," Daugaard said at the time.

The plan — which would require majority support in both legislative chambers — could face a lukewarm reception from Republicans. Outgoing House Republican leader Brian Gosch has said the majority of current House GOP lawmakers don't support expansion.

Opposition group Americans for Prosperity-South Dakota was buoyed by Daugaard's decision, State Director Ben Lee said. Expansion in other states has been a "disaster" with higher costs and more enrollees than anticipated, so it "borders on arrogance" to think that it could have been different in South

Dakota, he said.

The intervening election means a new batch of lawmakers will head to Pierre next legislative session for the potential debate. Medicaid expansion will be alive for the 2017 session, but it's "awfully early" to talk about what will be on the agenda, said Tony Venhuizen, chief of staff to Daugaard.

"We have a good plan that would increase health care access at no additional state cost and guarantee that the federal government won't shift its responsibility to pay for Native American health care to the state," Daugaard said in Wednesday's statement.

The South Dakota Association of Health Care Organizations, a key backer of Medicaid expansion, said in a statement that it supports Daugaard's decision to forego a special session and will continue to work with members and others to share the benefits of the proposal.

Sioux Falls police seek suspect in stabbing case

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Sioux Falls police are searching for a suspect after a stabbing in the city that left a man severely injured.

Authorities say the victim is expected to survive. Police say they believe an argument started Tuesday afternoon outside a Sioux Falls home, and the victim was stabbed under his armpit after he tried to get the suspect to leave.

KELO-TV reports police were initially unsure if the victim would live. Sioux Falls police spokesman Sam Clemens says his lung was punctured.

Investigators anticipate interviewing the victim as he recovers.

Officer-involved shooting sends Hot Springs man to hospital

HOT SPRINGS, S.D. (AP) — A man was taken to a hospital with undisclosed injuries after being shot by a police officer in Hot Springs.

The Police Department and state Attorney General's Office say Hot Springs officers responded to a disturbance call at a residence about 1 a.m. Wednesday and were confronted by the man, who had a knife.

Authorities say Officer Kyle Maciejewski shot 20-year-old Dylan Huff after Huff allegedly advanced on officers and refused several commands to drop the knife.

No officers were hurt.

Maciejewski was placed on administrative leave while the state Division of Criminal Investigation looks into the incident. That is common procedure. A report is expected within 30 days.

City of Martin implements curfew after rash of assaults

MARTIN, S.D. (AP) — City officials in Martin imposed a curfew after a rash of assaults, and have made several arrests.

Police Chief Thomas Jeans said in a statement that tension between two groups has resulted in nearly half a dozen aggravated assaults, causing a safety issue for residents of the Bennett County town of about 1,100 people.

The curfew ordered by Jeans and Mayor Gary Rahill was in place from 2-5:30 a.m. Wednesday, with violators subject to arrest.

Officer Thomas McMillan told the Rapid City Journal that the curfew passed without incident. He also said four people are in custody on multiple charges, and more arrests are pending in the ongoing investigation.

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Markets, bookies put money on Britons remaining in EU

DANICA KIRKA, Associated Press

JILL LAWLESS, Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Financial markets and bookmakers put their money on Britain's voting to remain a part of the European Union on Thursday in a historic referendum that threatens to undermine the experiment in continental unity launched in the aftermath of World War II.

More than 46 million people were registered to vote in the referendum, which asks: "Should the United Kingdom remain a member of the European Union or leave the European Union?" The heated campaign saw the nation take stock of its place in the modern world and question the direction it wanted to take in the future.

"This is, I'd say, the most important day in the past 20 years, at least for the U.K., and the economic consequences of a vote out are huge," said investment banker Hasan Naqvi outside a London polling station.

"Leave" campaigners claim that only a British exit can restore power to Parliament and control immigration. The "remain" campaign led by Prime Minister David Cameron argues that Britain is safer and richer inside the 28-nation EU.

Financial markets have been volatile ahead of the vote, with opinion polls suggesting a tight race, but the pound surged Thursday amid market optimism that uncertainty over the vote would end with a vote to stay.

The pound, which experts say would face a sharp drop in case of an EU exit, rose to its highest level this year, to around \$1.4900. Britain's benchmark stock index was up 1.2 percent, adding to big gains so far this week. Other European stock markets were up almost 2 percent.

The bookies also clearly saw momentum to "remain." The betting market Betfair said the probability that the country will stay stands at 86 percent, with a British exit, or Brexit, given just a 14 percent chance. William Hill revised the chances of a "leave" vote down from 25 percent to just under 17 percent.

Also buoying the markets was an opinion poll conducted by the Ipsos MORI firm for the Evening Standard newspaper which suggested the "remain" camp winning by a narrow margin.

"It's perfectly possible that England will vote to leave but London as the capital city, and Scotland and Northern Ireland will all vote to remain and outweigh ultimately the view of the English as a whole," said Ben Page, the chief executive officer of the market research firm.

Turnout is considered critical in the vote, as polling suggested there were a number of undecided voters. A large turnout will favor the "remain" campaign as those who waver at the end tend to go for the status quo. Those favoring "leave" also tend to be more committed.

"It's all about turnout and those soft 'remainers' staying at home," U.K. Independence Party leader Nigel Farage said outside his home after collecting the newspapers.

"I do think we are in with a very strong chance, I do genuinely," he said.

It was raining heavily in some parts of the country, which could reduce turnout and there were anecdotal reports of voters being unable to get to the polls.

Downpours and flooding swamped parts of London and southeastern Britain. London's Fire Brigade received hundreds of calls of weather-related incidents early Thursday, including some reports of flooding and lightning strikes.

Weather forecasters quipped that voters in the southeast would need umbrellas and possibly rubber boots in order to cast ballots. Prime Minister David Cameron ignored questions about the weather as he and his wife, Samantha, cast their votes in London.

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"I think it's very important to vote in such a big decision," said voter Belinda Byrne in Teddington, southwest London. "It's going to have a huge impact on the country."

The slaying of pro-Europe lawmaker Jo Cox in the final week before the vote may also prove a factor in the outcome. While the motive is unclear, the rare killing of a politician cast a shadow over a divisive campaign unusually heated even by Britain's boisterous standards.

Her husband, Brendan Cox, told a crowd of some 9,000 people gathered in Trafalgar Square on the eve of the vote that his wife had died because of her beliefs,

"Jo's killing was political," he said. "It was an act of terror designed to advance an agenda of hatred toward others. What a beautiful irony it is that an act designed to advance hatred has instead generated such an outpouring of love."

Only hours before her death, the "leave" campaign had rolled out a poster showing hundreds of non-white migrants making their way across Europe, alongside the words "BREAKING POINT." Critics labeled the poster racist; Farage apologized that it was "used by those who wish us harm," but insisted he couldn't "apologize for the truth."

The reach of the EU into every aspect of life has made the issues at stake far more complex than in a general election — and far more heated. Unlike in an election where the results can be reversed in the next term, the vote is final.

There is a small chance, though, that Parliament could choose not to implement the decision. But such a move would be politically difficult — as any politician would find it tough and likely a career-ending move to go against the express will of the people.

Solar-powered plane lands in Spain

LAURA LEON, Associated Press

SEVILLE, Spain (AP) — An experimental solar-powered airplane landed in Spain Thursday, completing an unprecedented three-day flight across the Atlantic in the latest leg of its globe-circling voyage.

The Solar Impulse 2 landed in Seville in southern Spain at 0540 GMT on Thursday, ending a 71-hour, 8-minute flight which began from New York City on Monday. It was the first time a solar-powered plane has made such a journey using zero fuel and zero emissions, organizers said.

Organizers said the aircraft had flown 6,765 kilometers (4,204 miles) at a maximum height of 8,534 meters (28,000 feet) and average speed of 95 kph (59 mph).

It was the 15th leg of a planned around-the-world flight which began in March 2015 from Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates.

The wings of Solar Impulse 2, which stretch wider than those of a Boeing 747, are equipped with 17,000 solar cells that power propellers and charge batteries. The plane runs on stored energy at night.

The flight was piloted by Swiss men Bertrand Piccard and Andre Borschberg.

"Initially the aviation industry told us it was impossible to build such an airplane, but we believed we could do it thanks to all our partners' technologies," Borschberg said in a statement.

The organizers said the mission will continue onward to Abu Dhabi.

It said the project showed that "exploration and pioneering are no longer about conquering new territories, but about exploring new ways to have a better quality of life on earth."

Dems stage election-year sit-in on guns, GOP unmoved

ERICA WERNER, AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — A drained and dwindling group of Democrats, some draped in blankets and totting pillows, carried their remarkable House floor sit-in past daybreak Thursday, disrupting the business of Congress in the wake of the Orlando shooting rampage with demands for gun-control votes in an extraordinary scene of protest broadcast live to the world.

Unyielding Republicans who control the chamber branded the move a publicity stunt and summarily adjourned the chamber at around 3:15 a.m. EDT until after the Fourth of July. By 6:30 a.m. Thursday — 19 hours after the protest commenced — some 16 Democrats remained including Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, giving speeches that mixed victory declarations with vows to never back down in their drive to curb firearm violence.

“While the Americans don’t always expect us to win, they do expect us to fight,” said Rep. Al Green, D-Texas, as dawn broke and the few remaining lawmakers sat in a paper-cluttered chamber beneath empty visitor galleries. “We demonstrated to the American why we can’t get votes on common sense safety measures.”

When Republicans streamed to the exits hours earlier, Democrats remained on the House floor, shouting “No bill no break!” and waving papers with the names of gun victims written in black. Rep. Maxine Waters of California said she was ready to stay “until Hell freezes over.”

With a crowd cheering them on from outside the Capitol and many more following the theatrics on social media, Democrats declared success in dramatizing the argument for action to stem gun violence.

“Just because they cut and run in the dark of night, just because they have left doesn’t mean we are taking no for an answer,” said Pelosi, D-Calif.

Republicans fiercely resisted the Democratic pressure, saying their colleagues had accomplished nothing other than disrupting the business of the House to score political points. House Speaker Paul Ryan called it “a publicity stunt.”

Rep. John Lewis, D-Ga., who had participated in the civil rights sit-ins in the South in the 1960s, said Democrats had “crossed one bridge.” He added, “We have other bridges to cross.” He said Democrats “made a down payment on ending gun violence” in America.

Pressure had been building on both sides of the Capitol in the wake of the shooting rampage at a Florida gay nightclub earlier this month that killed 49 people and injured 53 others. The assailant also died in the incident. The mass shooting followed similar tragic incidents over the past years including the school shooting in Newtown, Connecticut.

The agitation for action caused a Senate filibuster last week and led to the chaos on the House floor that lasted well into Thursday.

At one point, Democrats and Republicans nearly came to blows.

Republican Rep. Louie Gohmert of Texas approached the Democrats and yelled, “Radical Islam!” Democratic Rep. Corrine Brown of Florida started yelling back at him. The two came within inches of each other, both yelling.

Lawmakers from both parties separated the two.

The burst of nocturnal activity included recorded votes on some other issues such as the Zika virus. The spectacle captured the attention of a Washington gridlocked on guns despite the slaughter in Orlando. Senate Democrats undertook a nearly 15-hour filibuster last week in fighting for the same cause.

House Republicans used their prerogatives as the majority party to muscle through a partisan bill funding the Zika crisis with no time for debate, overruling Democrat’s objections and then moving to adjourn the House into next month as Democrats cried “Shame, Shame!”

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Republicans shut off the cameras in the House gallery throughout most of the protest, but Democrats used their cellphones to capture the action, and C-SPAN carried the feeds live in an unprecedented move.

Ryan, R-Wisc., said the bills pushed by Democrats, to expand background checks and keep people on the no-fly list from getting guns, would take away people's constitutional rights and deprive them of due process, and he noted similar legislation was already rejected in the Senate earlier in the week.

The protest began around 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, unfolding on the House floor with little advance warning from the Democrats.

By evening, 168 House Democrats — out of 188 — and 34 Senate Democrats joined the protest, according to the House minority leader's office. One after another, they spoke of the need for gun control and talked of constituents who had been killed.

Scattered around the House floor were signs reading "Disarm Hate." Visitors watched from the galleries. A crowd of several hundred gun control advocates gathered outside the Capitol and cheered as Democrats addressed them.

The sit-in — in which Lewis played a leading role — had the look of a 1960s-style protest, as some lawmakers sat on the floor, others in their seats.

Republicans had staged a similar protest in 2008. Democrats controlling the House at the time turned off the cameras amid a GOP push for a vote to expand oil and gas drilling. Republicans occupied the floor, delivering speech after speech after Pelosi, then the House speaker, sent lawmakers bolting to their August recess. Pelosi at that time had ordered the cameras turned off.

C-SPAN, a cable and satellite network that provides continual coverage of House and Senate floor proceedings, does not control the cameras. They're run on authorization by legislative leaders. Although the cameras were turned off Wednesday, lawmakers relied on social media to transmit video, using Facebook, Twitter and Periscope.

C-SPAN broadcast live video streamed on Periscope and Facebook from lawmakers' accounts. Democrats posted the Capitol's main telephone number, which was overwhelmed, and urged constituents to call and request a vote. They also encouraged tweeting under the hashtag #NoBillNoBreak.

Washington, Dunham, Gomez are faces of new LeanIn campaign

SANDY COHEN, AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Kerry Washington, Lena Dunham, Emma Watson, Selena Gomez and Serena Williams say help from other women has been critical to their success.

The stars appear in a video released Thursday by LeanIn.org to promote its new "Together Women Can" campaign.

Washington says she's "not really sure what my life would look like if it were not for Shonda Rhimes," who cast her as the lead in "Scandal."

Williams cited her sister Venus as her guide. Watson said Sofia Coppola was a mentor: "She supported my work and made me believe I could do more."

Eva Longoria, newscaster Megyn Kelly and soccer star Abby Wambach also appear in the video.

LeanIn.org founder Sheryl Sandberg said the campaign is meant to raise awareness of the ways women can support each other in the workplace and encourage confidence and leadership skills in girls.

Women working together leads to more women in leadership positions, a key objective of LeanIn.org, Sandberg said.

The video is among several set to appear on the campaign's website, which also includes tips for men-

tors and those they mentor and guidance for modeling leadership skills for girls.

"When women are CEOs, when women run for office, we inspire girls and women everywhere to believe they can do more," Sandberg, a self-made billionaire and top executive at Facebook, said in an interview. "And we still have a very small percentage of leadership roles anywhere, in any industry, in any government anywhere in the world. Our goal is to change that. And while the gap may be big, the numbers change one by one."

AP FACT CHECK: Trump peddles suspect claims about Clinton

BRADLEY KLAPPER, Associated Press

JIM DRINKARD, Associated Press

EDITOR'S NOTE _ A look at the veracity of claims in the presidential campaign

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a speech skewering Hillary Clinton, Donald Trump assigned her far more influence than she had as secretary of state as he blamed her directly for a host of foreign policy ills. He also peddled some suspect allegations that she used her time as the top diplomat to enrich herself.

Trump accused Clinton in his broad indictment Wednesday of announcing a withdrawal from Iraq that actually wasn't on her watch, pulled numbers out of nowhere on her plan for refugees and went beyond the established facts behind the killing of the U.S. ambassador to Libya in stating starkly that she "left him there to die."

Some of his assertions and how they stack up with the facts:

TRUMP: "In just four years, Secretary Clinton managed to almost single-handedly destabilize the entire Middle East." He blamed her for an invasion of Libya that "handed the country over to ISIS," for making Iran the dominant Islamic power in the region and for supporting regime change in Syria that led to a bloody civil war. He charged that her "disastrous strategy" of announcing a departure date from Iraq created another opening for ISIS there.

THE FACTS: These statements make only passing acquaintance with reality.

There was no U.S. invasion of Libya. Clinton initially opposed but then sought credit for the NATO-led air campaign to help rebels overthrow Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi in 2011. (Trump spoke in support of U.S. intervention at the time.) While the violence destabilized Libya, Islamic State inroads there have been more recent and are largely limited to a small coastal area of the country.

Arguments about Iranian domination of the Middle East predate Clinton's tenure, going back a decade to the George W. Bush administration's deposing of Saddam Hussein in neighboring Iraq.

While secretary of state, Clinton supported arming Syria's moderate rebels, but the Islamic State group only arrived later. It's unclear what effect such a policy would have had as President Barack Obama rejected the advice at the time.

And she had nothing to do with the "disastrous strategy" of giving a departure date from Iraq. It was the George W. Bush administration that announced the planned withdrawal of U.S. forces from Iraq in 2008.

TRUMP: U.S. Ambassador to Libya Chris Stevens and his staff "made hundreds and hundreds of requests for security. They were desperate. They needed help. Hillary Clinton's State Department refused them all. She started the war that put them in Libya, denied him the security he asked for, then left him there to die."

THE FACTS: Trump greatly exaggerates the security requests, not all of which were denied, and gets

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the history of U.S.-Libyan relations wrong. The reference to security requests appears to reflect the Republican-led House Select Committee on Benghazi's tally of "requests/concerns" related to the diplomatic outpost in Benghazi. For many of those, there's no record of denials. And some security upgrades did occur before the Sept. 11, 2012, attack that killed Stevens and three other Americans.

Clinton did not start the war in Libya. She supported a NATO intervention well after large-scale violence had broken out between Gadhafi's forces and rebels. Nor did the conflict put Stevens or any U.S. diplomat in Libya. The U.S. had maintained a full-fledged embassy there since President George W. Bush re-established diplomatic relations with Gadhafi's government in 2006.

Several congressional investigations have shown that Clinton had no role in military decisions related to Benghazi, and that it would have been impossible for U.S. armed forces to intervene in time to save Stevens.

TRUMP: "She ran the State Department like her own personal hedge fund."

THE FACTS: Trump's case that Clinton used her office for personal profiteering was based largely on sources of information that have been widely questioned, such as the book "Clinton Cash" by Peter Schweizer. The book argues that Clinton and her husband used the State Department to enrich their family, but it does not provide evidence of direct connections between business dealings by foreign interests, sometimes involving the Clinton Foundation, and decisions by Clinton when she was secretary of state.

An AP review of State Department calendars did show that she opened her office to dozens of influential Democratic party fundraisers, Clinton loyalists and corporate donors to her family's global charity. The AP found no evidence of legal conflicts in Clinton's meetings, however.

TRUMP: "Hillary also wants to spend hundreds of billions to resettle Middle Eastern refugees in the United States, on top of the current record level of immigration."

THE FACTS: For a businessman, Trump is shaky on his numbers. The entire U.S. budget for refugee resettlement is less than \$1.2 billion a year — and that includes refugees from Cuba, Bhutan and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Even including the value of all future public benefits they might receive — and excluding their contribution to the country through taxes — Trump's assertion about the cost of resettlement is still baffling.

TRUMP: "I started off in Brooklyn, New York, not so long ago, with a small loan and built a business that today is worth well over \$10 billion."

THE FACTS: Trump's \$1 million loan from his father was just the beginning of his family subsidies, which included a far larger inheritance, loan guarantees and even occasional bailouts — one of which was found to be illegal by New Jersey casino regulators. As for the value of Trump's business, every independent appraisal has found his assets to be worth far less than he says; Forbes says Trump is worth less than half what he claims.

TRUMP: "Hillary Clinton accepted \$58,000 in jewelry from the government of Brunei when she was secretary of state — plus millions more for her foundation. The sultan of Brunei has pushed oppressive Sharia law.

THE FACTS: Clinton is not sporting Brunei bling.

In September 2012, she accepted a \$58,000 jewelry set with gold, sapphire and diamond earrings, a necklace and bracelet, given by the queen of Brunei when Clinton visited for meetings and to inaugu-

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rate an English-language training program, according to the Federal Register. The gift was not to her, but to the United States.

Federal law prohibits officials from keeping such gifts unless they pay the estimated value to the U.S. government. According to the State Department's protocol office, Clinton chose not to buy the jewelry, and instead turned it over to the General Services Administration — the standard procedure for most gifts from foreign leaders.

It's true that Brunei is an Islamic nation that observes Sharia law and has been widely criticized for its human rights record, particularly when it comes to gays and lesbians.

But gift exchanges are standard practice. As with almost all gifts to all officials, the Federal Register notice says "non-acceptance would cause embarrassment to donor and U.S. government."

TRUMP: "Our trade deficit with China soared 40 percent during Clinton's time as secretary of state."

THE FACTS: Trump's claim is more than double the actual increase. From late 2008 through 2012, a period coinciding with Clinton's tenure, the trade deficit with China rose 17.6 percent. Trump's campaign may be using data from the end of 2009 through 2013, when the deficit did rise 40 percent, but that does not match up with Clinton's time in office and leaves out a sharp, recession-induced drop in 2009.

More broadly, the secretary of state is not typically held responsible for the trade deficit, which mostly reflects the health of the U.S. and global economies, the difference in how much the nation spends and saves, and trade policies implemented by the U.S. trade representative.

TRUMP: "We are the highest-taxed nation in the world."

THE FACTS: Closer to the opposite is true.

The U.S. tax burden is actually one of the lowest among the 34 developed and large emerging-market economies that make up the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

Taxes made up 26 percent of the total U.S. economy in 2014, according to the OECD. That's far below Sweden's tax burden of 42.7 percent, Britain's 32.6 percent or Germany's 36.1 percent. Only three OECD members had a lower figure: Chile, South Korea and Mexico.

TRUMP: "She has pledged to grant mass amnesty and in her first 100 days, end virtually all immigration enforcement, and thus create totally open borders in the United States."

THE FACTS: It's not true that Clinton's plan would create open borders. Her plan does call for a pathway to citizenship that would allow people currently in the country illegally to stay, but only after going through a series of steps to become a citizen. On enforcement, Clinton has called for focusing on "detaining and deporting those individuals who pose a violent threat to public safety," but not ending enforcement outright.

TRUMP: "Under her plan, we would admit hundreds of thousands of refugees from the most dangerous countries on Earth, with no way to screen who they are, what they are, what they believe, where they come from."

THE FACTS: Clinton has called for the United States to continue to accept refugees, including as many as 65,000 from Syria. But Trump is wrong about Clinton's stance on refugee screening. She's never said she would scale back the current refugee processing system. Under that system, a person's beliefs are not generally a disqualifier for entrance into the U.S. Refugees are checked to make sure they don't have criminal records or have been identified by intelligence agencies as having ties to terrorist

organizations.

TRUMP: "We will repeal and replace job-killing Obamacare. It is a total disaster."

THE FACTS: Job growth has been solid by historical standards since Obama's health care overhaul was signed into law in March 2010. Since then, employers have added nearly 14 million jobs and businesses have been on the longest hiring streak in the post-World War II era. And 2014 and 2015 were the two best years of private-sector hiring since the late 1990s. The unemployment rate, meanwhile, has fallen to 4.7 percent, an 8 ½ year low, from 9.9 percent when the law was passed.

11 killed in China aluminum plant accident

BEIJING (AP) — An accident at an aluminum refinery in central China has killed 11 workers, state media and a local official said Thursday, pointing to continuing industrial safety problems despite government-ordered improvements.

The accident Wednesday at the Aluminum Corp. of China facility in the city of Zhengzhou occurred when equipment that the workers were dismantling collapsed on top of them. The official Xinhua News Agency said eight other workers were injured.

An official with the Zhengzhou city government confirmed the death toll Thursday but declined to give details or her name.

Authorities have sought to improve industrial safety and the storage of dangerous products since a massive series of explosions at a chemical warehouse in the eastern port city of Tianjin last August killed 173 people — the bulk of them firefighters and police — in one of China's worst-ever workplace accidents.

Chinese aluminum producers are among the bloated industries Washington and other trading partners complain are dumping exports too cheaply, hurting foreign competitors and threatening jobs.

China recently promised to rein in production of steel that is flooding global markets but made no commitments on aluminum.

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. WHO STAGED A SIT-IN AT CONGRESS OVER GUNS

Rebellious Democrats hold an extraordinary around-the-clock protest on the House floor in a failed attempt to demand votes on gun-control bills, shouting down Speaker Paul Ryan when he attempted to restore order.

2. COULD THE UK 'BREXIT' THE EU?

An historic referendum could see Britain exit the European Union, a development that might threaten the continental bloc's future, though staying in could narrowly win the day.

3. WHAT IS KIM JONG UN UP TO?

The leader seems intent on energizing the country's sputtering economy and boosting social cohesion. For most North Koreans, that means more work — much more work.

4. FORE! TRUMP LEAVES CAMPAIGN TRAIL FOR FAIRWAYS

Facing questions about meager fundraising, slipping poll numbers and campaign instability, Donald

Trump is tending to business — at his golf courses in Scotland.

5. WHERE PEACE IS CLOSER THAN EVER AFTER DECADES OF STRIFE

Colombia's half-century of bloodshed nears an end-point, as its president is set to join leftist rebels in celebrating a cease-fire and disarmament agreement at a dignitary-studded signing ceremony in Cuba.

6. A DRAMATIC SOUTH POLE RESCUE

Two people who fell ill while working at the remote U.S. research station are evacuated by a small plane that made the daring rescue flight in Antarctica's harsh winter.

7. A ROCK CLASSIC COULD BE SUNG TO DIFFERENT TUNE

Jurors are set to resume deliberations over whether Led Zeppelin's Jimmy Page and Robert Plant lifted a riff from fellow rockers for its epic "Stairway to Heaven."

8. AMERICA'S FASTEST GROWING RACIAL GROUP

It's Asians, whose numbers grew 3.4 percent over the past year, compared to the Hispanic population's 2.2 percent growth rate, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

9. UNHERALDED NATIONS ADVANCE AT SOCCER'S EUROS

The European Championship's knockout stage features a few unlikely entrants — Northern Ireland, Ireland and even tiny Iceland — while sputtering Italy and two-time defending champion Spain are set to meet.

10. THE NBA DRAFT'S TOP PICK REMAINS UNSETTLED

Ben Simmons and Brandon Ingram are expected to be the top two selections, but say either could be taken by the Philadelphia 76ers with the No. 1 pick in pro basketball's annual draft Thursday night.

Candidates avoid Medicare, Social Security finance woes

RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR, Associated Press

STEPHEN OHLEMACHER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The nation's framework for economic security and health care in retirement is financially unsustainable, but you wouldn't know it from listening to the presidential candidates.

This week the Social Security and Medicare trustees warned of tough choices ahead to keep the two programs solvent over the long run. Together, Social Security and Medicare account for about 40 percent of federal spending, providing inflation-protected monthly checks and health insurance for tens of millions of seniors and disabled people. Working families benefit, too, when elders can live independently.

But the taxes supporting both programs can't keep pace with rising spending. Over time, Medicare and Social Security will rely more and more on accumulated reserves in their trust funds. Eventually there won't be enough to pay full benefits. Medicare's trust fund will run out in 2028, and Social Security's in 2034.

The candidates have said little to acknowledge the issue, although it's at the root of the government's budget problems. They may not be able to avoid it once in the White House. Health care costs, in particular, can be volatile. And liberals and conservatives agree it's important to act sooner rather than later, to avoid disruptions for retirees and workers.

Unusual for a Republican, Donald Trump has promised not to cut Social Security, Medicare or Medicaid, the health care program for low-income people. His campaign has suggested he'd revisit government benefit programs — known as entitlements — after his tax-cut plan boosts economic growth. But critics say the Trump plan would just pile up more debt, making it harder to deal with changes to big programs.

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"I don't know where he's going to get the money," said economist Douglas Holtz-Eakin, president of the American Action Forum, a center-right think tank. "Maybe he's got it in the Cayman Islands or something?"

Hillary Clinton, the presumptive Democratic nominee, has proposed expanding Social Security benefits for widows and family caregivers, as well as making upper-income earners pay more to support the program. She may have to go further, since liberals, including Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, are pressing for expanded benefits. President Barack Obama also wants to do more.

On Medicare, Clinton wants to give the government authority to negotiate drug prices but doesn't see a need for major restructuring. Advocates, meanwhile, want Medicare benefits expanded to include dental care, vision and hearing aids.

"Just when you thought we couldn't go any further on pandering, it turns out we have," said Maya MacGuineas, president of the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, a nonpartisan group that advocates for reducing federal deficits. The election is perpetuating a myth that nothing needs to be done, she added.

The future of entitlement programs has been debated in presidential elections for decades, but this year seems different. Social Security has long been called the "third rail" of American politics because touching it can doom candidates. Now, Medicare looks to have taken on the aura of invulnerability as well.

Advocates for older people are not quite ready to celebrate.

"This isn't an election year like any other that we've seen," said Nancy LeaMond, a vice president of AARP, the seniors lobby. "The fact that it hasn't focused on issues, and it's more about personalities and nicknames, means that there hasn't been very much discussion in the press."

Ignoring the problems doesn't mean they get magically resolved.

Previous overhauls of Social Security and Medicare involved a combination of benefit cuts and tax increases. With Medicare, cuts to hospitals, insurers, doctors and other service providers also play a major role. But there's probably less room for provider cuts now because Obama's health care law and budget deals with Congress already have reduced payments.

Social Security is the bigger program, but its fiscal problems may be easier to deal with. That's because Medicare spending is driven not just by an aging population, but by unpredictable health care costs.

Social Security proposals in the mix include tax hikes and a somewhat stingier formula for annual cost-of-living increases. Medicare proposals include privatizing the program, with the government contributing a set amount for health insurance, as well as gradually increasing the eligibility age to 67, from 65 currently. Medicare tax increases aren't ruled out, either.

For now, House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., is the rare national political figure keeping the entitlements debate alive. But Ryan studiously avoids tax increases, which would have to be part of a deal to bring Democrats along.

Procrastination will only make the inevitable changes more wrenching, while starting now would allow for gradual adjustments.

"If you wait until the last minute, it is much harder to do structural reforms," said economist Doug Elmendorf, dean of the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard. "You don't want to change the rules for people while they are receiving benefits, or when they are about to start receiving benefits."

Thousands attend funeral of Sufi singer killed by extremists

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Thousands of mourners are attending the funeral of a well-known Pakistani Sufi singer who was shot dead in the port city of Karachi in an attack claimed by Islamic extremists.

Television footage showed tearful mourners showering rose petals over an ambulance carrying the coffin of Amjad Sabri, whose car was ambushed by gunmen on Wednesday when he was on his way to a local TV appearance. Sabri will be buried later Thursday.

Sabri and his late father, Ghulam Farid Sabri, were renowned qawwali singers, a style of music rooted in Sufism, or Islamic mysticism.

Militants have targeted Sufis in the past and destroyed their shrines.

A splinter faction of the Pakistani Taliban said after the attack that it had killed Sabri because he was a “blasphemer.”

Amid campaign worries, Trump to check on courses in Scotland

JONATHAN LEMIRE, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Facing questions about meager fundraising, slipping poll numbers and campaign instability, Donald Trump is tending to business — in Scotland.

In his first international trip since becoming the presumptive Republican nominee, Trump plans to check on a pair of his championship golf resorts. Some Republicans worry that the billionaire’s attention is divided between his businesses and his campaign.

“I’m not sure what the purpose of the trip is,” said Sen. John Thune, R-S.D., who added that he hopes Trump “would get back here quickly.”

Trump’s son, Eric, who oversaw the two-year, more than \$300 million renovation at the Trump Turnberry golf course, dismissed those concerns, saying “the eyes of the world” will be on his father during a two-day stay in Scotland that begins Friday.

“The Turnberry course is one of the crown jewels of the golf world and is now one of the crown jewels of our family’s properties,” Eric Trump said this week in an interview with The Associated Press. “He’s over there to inspect the course and to support his son who put a tremendous amount of time and energy into the project.”

Trump’s first stop Friday morning will be in Turnberry, which is nestled along Scotland’s western rocky coast and has been in use for more than a century. The site, which Trump bought in 2014, has hosted four British Open championships, was used as an airplane landing strip during both world wars and features a lighthouse that stands on the ruins of a 13th century castle.

He will visit another course he owns, in Aberdeen, on Saturday before returning to the United States after just 36 hours.

“It’s a brief but important visit and then he will be back on the campaign trail,” Eric Trump said.

The trip comes at a precarious time for the United Kingdom. Trump is expected to arrive a day after Britons vote on whether to remain in the European Union.

Trump does not have any meetings scheduled with Scottish political leaders, his campaign said. That stands in contrast to previous presidential nominees’ foreign trips. In 2012, for instance, Mitt Romney met with British Prime Minister David Cameron. Then-Sen. Barack Obama met with German Chancellor Angela Merkel in 2008.

Trump is slated to hold a news conference while in Scotland and could weigh in on Britain’s “Brexit” vote. The celebrity businessman said this week he supports Britain’s exit from the EU.

“I don’t think anybody should listen to me because I haven’t really focused on it very much,” he told Fox Business Network this week, “but my inclination would be to get out, you know, just go it alone.”

Tensions around the vote grew last week when Jo Cox, a member of Britain’s Parliament who was a

vocal supporter of the UK remaining in the EU, was murdered. The man accused in the slaying later said "My name is death to traitors, freedom for Britain" when asked in court to state his identity.

Trump, whose mother was born in Scotland, has long emphasized his ties to the country, but he has waged several battles with those in his ancestral homeland. He sparred with locals about development on Aberdeen's famed dunes and over the wind farm he feared would block the view from his course. Earlier this year, he was stripped of an honorary degree from Robert Gordon University in Aberdeen.

Trump's trip also comes just days after he dismissed his campaign manager, Corey Lewandowski, and reported having just \$1.3 million in cash on hand at the start of June, more than \$41 million behind Democrat Hillary Clinton. But some of his allies insisted the trip would not be a distraction.

"A presidential candidate has every right to take a few days off and be with his family," said Ed Cox, the chair of the New York State Republican Party. "Besides, the general election doesn't really start until the convention next month. He has plenty of time."

Census: Asians remain fastest-growing racial group in US

JESSE J. HOLLAND, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Asians remain the fastest-growing racial group in the United States, according to new information from the Census Bureau.

The nation's Asian population grew at 3.4 percent between July 2014 and 2015, with migration responsible for the majority of the growth, government officials said Thursday. There are now 21 million Asians in the United States, with Hawaii as the nation's only majority Asian state.

Sam Garrow, a Census Department demographer, said Asians have been the fastest-growing race group since about 2000, and the main driving force is international migration. In 2013, China replaced Mexico as the top sending country for immigrants to the United States, officials said.

Other minority groups grew as well. The Hispanic population grew by 2.2 percent to 56.6 million, and New Mexico had the largest percentage of Hispanics in the country at 48 percent. The African-American population grew by 1.3 percent to 46.3 million, with Mississippi holding the nation's largest percentage at 38.3 percent. And the American Indian and Alaska native population grew 1.5 percent to a total of 6.6 million, with Alaska having the largest percent at 19.5 percent.

California has the largest number of most racial and ethnic groups, with more Hispanics, whites, Asians and American Indians than any other state. New York state has more blacks than any other state, and Hawaii has the largest numeric population of Native Hawaiians than any other state.

The second fastest-growing racial group was those who claim two or more races, government officials said. The number of people who claimed two or more races grew 3.1 percent to 6.6 million. This group was also the youngest group of all racial or ethnic groups with a median age of 20 years old.

In fact, the most diverse generation is the nation's youngest. Census figures show that of those born since 2000, nearly half — or 49 percent — belong to a race or ethnic group other than non-Hispanic white. In contrast, 44.5 percent of the millennials — born between 1982 and 2000 — did not classify themselves as non-Hispanic whites.

WHITES SHOWING SLOWEST GROWTH

The nation's white population is showing the slowest growth.

The census found that the white population, including those who chose white along with another race, grew only 0.5 percent between 2014 and 2015. There were more than 255 million people who said they were white or white in combination with something else. California had the largest number of these people at 29.8 million, but Vermont had the highest population of those described themselves

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as white or white along with another race or ethnicity at 96.6 percent.

The numbers change little for those who say they are white alone. There are 198 million people who say they are white alone, an increase of 0.1 percent. California once again had the largest population at 14.9 million, but Maine had the largest percentage as its population at 93.6 percent.

SUMTER COUNTY, FLORIDA, IS THE OLDEST

The oldest place in the United States is Sumter County, Florida, where the majority of the population is at least 65 years old.

Almost 55 percent of Sumter County has reached retirement age, government figures showed, and the median age in the country was 66.6 years old.

Sumter County also contains one of the fastest-growing areas in the country. The Villages retirement community located northwest of Orlando was the nation's fastest-growing metro area with a 5.4 percent increase that raised the population to 114,000 residents. The attraction to areas like The Villages is part of the reason for the increase in population and age, said Jason Devine, assistant division chief for Population Estimates and Projections.

"As the nation's 65-and-older population grows, other counties with retirement communities like The Villages will get closer to this threshold," Devine said.

There was only one other county with a population of at least 1,000 close in age to Sumter County: Catron County, New Mexico. That county had a median age of 60.1 years.

The youngest county in the United States? Lexington County, Virginia, which had a median age of 22.4 years.

Simmons, Ingram and intrigue highlight Thursday's NBA draft

BRIAN MAHONEY, AP Basketball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Ben Simmons and Brandon Ingram say they haven't been told who Philadelphia will take with the No. 1 pick, so all they can go on is what they've heard.

And Ingram was told not to do that.

"When I left the Sixers workout they told me not to listen to everybody, so I'm just listening to them and I don't really read the reports that come out about anything else," the Duke forward said.

The answer will come Thursday.

The freshmen are expected to be the top two selections in the NBA draft, and Simmons can't wait to hear his name called.

"It's surreal, but you know I'm looking forward to it," the LSU forward said. "I feel like I've put in enough work to get to this point and I think everything else will take care of itself."

Tucked in between a historic NBA Finals and a potential game-changing free agency period, the draft might be a little short on star power but not on drama. There were already a couple of trades Wednesday, with Chicago sending Derrick Rose to the Knicks, and there could be more action Thursday.

All eyes will be on Boston, which has the No. 3 pick and then seven more after that. If the Celtics want a veteran instead of adding more youth, packaging some of those picks might get it done.

"The teams know who they want and none of us really know that much," Washington's Marquese Chriss said. "I just think wherever I go it's a blessing and I'm going to be very happy."

Other things to watch on draft night from Brooklyn's Barclays Center:

THEY WILL BE BUSY

Philadelphia: 1st, 24th and 26th picks.

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Boston: 3rd, 16th, 23rd, 31st, 35th, 45th, 51st and 58th picks.

Phoenix: 4th, 13th, 28th and 34th picks.

Denver: 7th, 15th, 19th, 53rd and 56th picks.

THE NEW YORK TEAMS WON'T

The loudest noise in last year's draft came when Knicks fans booed the selection of Kristaps Porzingis, the No. 4 pick who they later embraced in his All-Rookie team campaign. But as it stands there will be nothing for New Yorkers to boo — or cheer — as both have traded away what would have been lottery picks. The Nets sent what would have been the third pick to Boston as part of the 2013 trade that landed them Kevin Garnett and Paul Pierce, while the first of Denver's three first-round picks comes as remaining payment from the Carmelo Anthony trade five years ago.

BE THE 3

Whether the Celtics keep the pick or trade it, the intrigue seems to begin at No. 3. Jaylen Brown (California), Kris Dunn (Providence), Jamal Murray (Kentucky), Dragan Bender (Croatia) and Chriss all could be possibilities.

"We'll see what's going to happen tomorrow on draft night," said Bender, who played for Maccabi Tel Aviv. "You're always hoping for the best, for sure, and it's a lot of excitement, but you need to be realistic and wait for the moment."

ONE AND DONE

Simmons and Ingram could potentially top a list of nine freshmen that go in the first round, a group that would include Kentucky teammates Murray and Skal Labissiere. The record is 13 first-round freshmen, set last year.

THEM AGAIN?

Picking at No. 8 will be the Sacramento Kings, who are as much a part of the lottery as lucky charms. This is their 10th straight season picking in the lottery (the top 14 picks), the NBA's longest streak since the system to determine the No. 1 pick was instituted in 1985.

California wildfires stall, other Western blazes grow

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Major wildfires in Southern California were kept at bay amid cooler, more humid weather, while blazes elsewhere in the West saw big growth and potential danger.

Improved weather in the aftermath of a severe heat wave allowed firefighters to make progress against two fires in the steep San Gabriel Mountains 20 miles northeast of Los Angeles.

A fleet of helicopters and air tankers and other resources are helping fight the fires totaling about 7½ square miles.

Despite fears that stronger winds could make the fire resurgent and the challenges of tough terrain, containment was expanded from 10 to 15 percent by Wednesday evening.

No homes have been lost, though flames have come close at times. More than 850 homes were ordered evacuated earlier this week, and 534 homes in the foothill city of Duarte were cleared for residents' return Wednesday.

Near the Mexican border, two residences and 11 outbuildings burned in a wildfire about 40 miles southeast of San Diego. About 200 structures were threatened by the blaze, which grew to just over 10 square miles and was 20 percent contained.

Elsewhere in the West, a forest fire near the Colorado-Wyoming line exploded in size and forced campers to evacuate.

A shift in the wind turned a blaze burning slowly in a heavily wooded area with no permanent residents into a fast-moving threat, growing from 1 square mile to about 5. Trees killed by a beetle infesta-

tion were fueling the flames 140 miles north of Denver and 2 miles from Wyoming.

More firefighters were expected, but getting more help was difficult because of the other Western blazes. "Resources are kind of hard to come by right now," Routt National Forest spokesman Aaron Voos said

In southwest Utah, a fire forced evacuations of at least 185 homes in the town of Pine Valley. The U.S. Forest Service said Wednesday that the blaze has torched more than a square mile and additional evacuations could come.

In eastern Arizona, firefighters expected to keep a wildfire spanning about 67 square miles from moving any closer to a rural town. More than 15,000 people in nearby mountain communities have been told to prepare to evacuate.

Can Google Glass help autistic children read faces?

TERENCE CHEA, Associated Press

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP) — Like many autistic children, Julian Brown has trouble reading emotions in people's faces, one of the biggest challenges for people with the neurological disorder.

Now the 10-year-old San Jose boy is getting help from "autism glass" — an experimental device that records and analyzes faces in real time and alerts him to the emotions they're expressing.

The facial recognition software was developed at Stanford University and runs on Google Glass, a computerized headset with a front-facing camera and a tiny display just above the right eye.

Julian is one of about 100 autistic children participating in a Stanford study to see if "autism glass" therapy can improve their ability to interpret facial expressions.

"There's not a machine that can read your mind, but this helps with the emotions, you know, recognizing them," Julian said.

Julian wears the device each day for three 20-minute sessions when he interacts with family members face-to-face — talking, playing games, eating meals. The program runs on a smartphone, which records the sessions.

When the device's camera detects an emotion such as happiness or sadness, Julian sees the word "happy" or "sad" — or a corresponding "emoji" — flash on the glass display. The device also tests his ability to read facial expressions.

"The autism glass program is meant to teach children with autism how to understand what a face is telling them. And we believe that when that happens they will become more socially engaged," said Dennis Wall, who directs the Stanford School of Medicine's Wall Lab, which is running the study.

Stanford student Catalin Voss and researcher Nick Haber developed the technology to track faces and detect emotions in a wide range of people and settings.

"We had the idea of basically creating a behavioral aide that would recognize the expressions and faces for you and then give you social cues according to those," said Voss, who was partly inspired by a cousin who has autism.

Google provided about 35 Google Glass devices to Stanford, but otherwise hasn't been involved in the project. The Silicon Valley tech giant stopped producing the headset last year after it failed to gain traction, but the device found new life among medical researchers.

Brain Power, a Cambridge, Mass.-based startup, is also developing Google Glass-based applications to help children with autism improve their face-reading abilities and social skills.

Autism advocates are excited that researchers are developing technologies to help the estimated one in 68 American children diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder.

"Glass and wearable technology are the future. They're going to play a pivotal role in how we understand, manage and diagnose disorders like autism," said Robert Ring, chief science officer at Autism Speaks.

Currently, many autistic children learn to read facial expressions by working with therapists who use flashcards with faces expressing different emotions. The Stanford team hopes autism glass can provide a convenient, affordable therapy that families can do at home.

"Kids with autism are not getting enough of the care that they need for as long as they need it, and we need to fix the problem," Wall said.

If the study shows positive results, the technology could become commercially available within a couple years, Wall said.

"Anything that can help this population is very welcome and very important, but even the best technology will never be enough because we are dealing with a population with often very, very profound needs," said Jill Escher, president of Autism Society San Francisco Bay Area.

The study is still in its early stages, but Wall said participating children have shown gains in their face-reading abilities and family feedback has been encouraging.

"It has helped our son who's using the Google Glasses connect with the family more," said Kristen Brown, Julian's mother. "I think the glasses are a positive way to encourage a kid to look someone else in the face."

Julian also gives the device positive reviews: "I really think it would help autistic people a lot."

Colombia, FARC rebels near closure on peace deal

MIKE WEISSENSTEIN, Associated Press

JOSHUA GOODMAN, Associated Press

HAVANA (AP) — Colombia will move closer than ever to ending a half-century of bloodshed when its president joins leftist rebels Thursday in celebrating a cease-fire and disarmament agreement at a dignitary-studded signing ceremony in Cuba.

After more than three years of often prickly negotiations in the Cuban capital, President Juan Manuel Santos' government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, announced Wednesday that they had settled the final differences on how 7,000 rebel fighters will demobilize and hand over their weapons once a peace accord is implemented.

Santos' trip to Havana is a sign that a final deal to end Latin America's oldest guerrilla war is close. Together with top FARC commander Rodrigo Londono, better known as Timochenko, Santos will unveil details of the disarmament deal at a ceremony attended by U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, several other Latin American presidents and a U.S. special envoy.

Colombia's conflict has killed more than 220,000 people and displaced millions. But a 15-year, U.S.-backed military offensive thinned rebel ranks and forced FARC's aging leaders to the negotiating table in 2012. And in Santos, a U.S.-educated economist and scion of one of Colombia's richest families, the rebels found a trusted partner who hailed from the conservative elite but wasn't bound by its prejudices.

Momentum had been building toward a breakthrough after Santos said this week that he hoped to deliver a peace accord in time to mark Colombia's declaration of independence from Spain on July 20. But the latest agreement went further than expected.

In addition to a framework for the cease-fire, both sides said Wednesday they agreed on a demobilization plan that will see guerrillas concentrate in rural areas and hand over weapons that had long been

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the vaunted symbols of their movement's origins as a self-defense force of peasant farmers attacked by the oligarchy-controlled state.

Negotiators in January agreed on the United Nations being responsible for monitoring adherence to the eventual cease-fire and resolving disputes emerging from the demobilization

The presidents of Cuba, Venezuela and Chile, the three nations sponsoring the peace talks in Havana, were expected to attend Thursday's ceremony. The Obama administration was sending its special envoy to the talks, Bernard Aronson.

With the latest advance, only a few minor items remain to be worked out for a peace accord. The biggest is how the final deal will be ratified and given legal armor so it won't unravel should a more conservative government succeed Santos, who leaves office in 2018.

Santos has also promised to let Colombians vote on accepting the final accord in a national referendum, and his government isn't taking acceptance for granted.

"Tomorrow will be a great day," Santos tweeted Wednesday. "We're working for a Colombia in peace, a dream that's beginning to become reality."

A peace deal won't make Colombia safer overnight.

The proliferation of cocaine has fueled the conflict longer than any other in Latin America and will remain a powerful magnet for criminal gangs operating in Colombia's remote valleys and lawless jungles. Colombia is the largest supplier of cocaine to the U.S. and only a small fraction of the country's 12,000-plus homicides last year had anything to do with the conflict.

There is also the risk that the country's second rebel movement, the much-smaller but more recalcitrant National Liberation Army, could fill the void left by the FARC. That rebel group agreed to negotiations with the government earlier this year but those talks have yet to start because of Santos' insistence that it renounce kidnapping

But if the FARC honor their commitments and the fighters are successfully integrated back into society, the government could begin shifting resources away from the battlefield and toward attacking other forms of crime and the crushing poverty and inequality that it feeds on.

One wild card is the posture of critics like popular former President Alvaro Uribe, who spearheaded the military offensive against the FARC last decade. Partly because of his success beating back the FARC, Colombians almost unanimously refer to the rebels as "terrorists." Polls say most Colombians can't muster the thought of seeing rebel leaders behind atrocious war crimes walking the streets freely let alone occupying seats in a democratic congress whose legitimacy the FARC didn't even recognize until recently.

Uribe refused to comment on Wednesday's announcement, saying he was waiting more details.

Others couldn't hold back their excitement. Leftist Sen. Ivan Cepeda borrowed a phrase from Colombia's beloved Nobel Prize-winning novelist, Gabriel Garcia Marquez, to compare the prospect of peace to a "second chance on earth."

"It's time to rid ourselves of hatred, lies and fears and build reconciliation among all our compatriots," Cepeda, one of the government's most-trusted conduits to the FARC, said on Twitter. "Peace defeats death."

Daring flight removes 2 sick workers from South Pole station

SETH BORENSTEIN, Associated Press

EVA VERGARA, Associated Press

SANTIAGO, Chile (AP) — Two people who fell ill while working at the U.S. research station at the South Pole have been evacuated by a small plane that made the daring rescue flight in Antarctica's harsh winter.

The National Science Foundation said the two workers arrived safely late Wednesday in Punta Arenas, the southernmost city in Chile, after a long trip from the Amundsen-Scott station at the South Pole. They stopped for a few hours at a British station on the edge of Antarctica to be put on another plane.

"From Punta Arenas, the two patients aboard will be transported to a medical facility that can provide a level of care that is not available at Amundsen-Scott," said a statement on the National Science Foundation's Facebook page.

The two were taken to a clinic in Punta Arenas, but it wasn't clear if that was the facility the foundation referred to.

The foundation, which runs Amundsen-Scott and two other centers in Antarctica, said it was not disclosing the location of the medical facility. It also did not identify the sick workers or give their conditions, citing medical privacy. They were described only as seasonal employees of Lockheed Martin, which is the prime contractor for operations and research support for the foundation's Antarctic program.

In a hectic two days of flying, the rescue team flew 3,000 miles roundtrip from Britain's Rothera station to the South Pole and returned to Rothera with the sick workers Wednesday afternoon, said Peter West, spokesman for the National Science Foundation. The workers were transferred to a second Canadian-owned Twin Otter plane for the flight to Punta Arenas.

At Rothera, the temperature was a balmy 27.5 degrees (minus 2.5 Celsius) Wednesday afternoon. That was toasty compared to the South Pole where it was minus 75 (minus 60 Celsius) in the morning.

Before they left, there were 48 people — 39 men and nine women — at the Amundsen-Scott station for the winter.

Normally planes don't go to the U.S. polar outpost from February to October because of the dangers of flying in the pitch-dark and cold. The first day of winter in the Southern Hemisphere was Monday — the sun will not rise at the South Pole until the first day of spring in September.

Steve Barnet, who works with a University of Wisconsin astronomy team at the polar station but is in the U.S. now, lauded the rescue crew.

"The courage of the pilots to make the flight in extremely harsh conditions is incredible and inspiring," Barnet wrote in an email.

The extreme cold affects a lot of things on planes, including fuel, which needs to be warmed before takeoff, batteries and hydraulics, West said. The Twin Otter can fly in temperatures as low as minus 103 degrees (minus 75 degrees Celsius), he said.

"The air and Antarctica are unforgiving environments and punishes any slackness very hard," said Tim Stockings, operations director for the British Antarctic Survey. "If you are complacent it will bite you."

"Things can change very quickly down there" with ice from clouds, high winds and snow, he said.

The station has a doctor and a physician's assistant and is connected to doctors in the U.S. for consultation, West said, but sometimes workers need medical care that can't be provided at the South Pole. There have been three emergency evacuations from Amundsen-Scott since 1999.

The 1999 flight, which was done in Antarctic spring during slightly better conditions, rescued the sta-

tion's doctor, Jerri Nielsen, who had breast cancer and had been treating herself. Rescues also were done in 2001 and 2003, both for gallbladder problems.

Scientists have had a station at the South Pole since 1956. It does astronomy, physics and environmental science with telescopes, seismographs and instruments that monitor the atmosphere. The foundation runs two other research stations in Antarctica.

North Korea mobilizes on 200-day economic speed campaign

ERIC TALMADGE, Associated Press

WONSAN, North Korea (AP) — The bright red slogans hang from buses, government buildings and even some restaurants and gas stations, urging North Koreans to work harder to make the country's 200-day "speed campaign" a success. "Have you carried out the plan for today?" one poster asks.

It's the second such drive this year, and while outside economists doubt their effectiveness, they reflect leader Kim Jong Un's desire to energize the country's sputtering economy. That goal is fettered by international sanctions against Kim's other main priority, his nuclear program, increasing the pressure on North Koreans to dig themselves out of economic stagnation.

In a collectivist society, slacking off isn't taken lightly. Least of all now.

"If you look out the window, you won't see anyone just walking around," said Chang Sun Ho, the manager of a small shoe factory in Wonsan, a port city on North Korea's east coast. "Everyone is working."

The history of North Korea's speed campaigns, which were also common in the former Soviet bloc countries and in China, is almost as old as the country itself.

The nation's founder, Kim Il Sung, called a major one named after a mythical winged horse that could fly 1,000 "li" (about 400 kilometers) to rebuild the country after the 1950-53 Korean War. The current drive has been dubbed the "Mallima" campaign — suggesting a winged horse that is 10 times faster.

Loading on more work for a national political objective might cause a lot of grumbling or even strikes elsewhere. But in a country where patriotism is strong, perseverance a hallowed virtue and toeing the official line a key survival strategy, you won't hear anyone complaining here — at least not publicly.

North Korean officials allowed Associated Press reporters to tour and conduct interviews at the shoe factory, which offers a window into how such campaigns actually play out on the ground.

With 220 workers, it produces about 700 pairs of shoes a day — the central government tells them how many produce. The shoes are distributed to department stores and other places around the country. The factory does not export any of its products, which officials say are made strictly with domestically produced materials and locally made machinery, in keeping with the government philosophy of "self-reliance."

Manager Chang said the factory met its annual production goal several weeks ago, though it is still June.

Kim Jong Un himself visited the factory in November. At his direction, it is now focused on making lighter, better quality shoes and providing a wider variety to make North Korea's shoe production "world class."

"The marshal has said he has adopted this factory as if it were his own," Chang said, referring to Kim Jong Un by his most commonly used title. "So it is like we are working for our father. That's all the motivation we need."

Just to be sure, however, an official from the Ministry of Light Industry has been dispatched from Pyongyang to monitor and supervise its operations for the entire 200-day period.

Factory officials said they have not hired any extra hands to boost production, and that they don't

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need to resort to monetary rewards or firing threats. The workers get their basic necessities from the government but can receive monthly bonuses if the factory sells more shoes than its government-set target.

Peer pressure is also clearly a strong part of the mix.

Workers are divided up into sections and smaller work groups, whose collective output is posted in large bar graphs around their workplaces for all to see. Manager Chang said that if a worker is not making the grade, he or she is paired up with a more productive partner. He said no one wants to be labeled as lazy because, with the standing of their whole group at stake, they could end up being officially regarded as a problem to the whole factory "family."

He did not comment on what might happen beyond possible social ostracism.

Outside economists say speed campaigns focus more on short-term bumps in production and overtly political goals of the re-enforcing ideological principles of the primacy of loyalty and group action than the kind of sustainable and meaningful long-term growth the North's centrally controlled economy really needs.

They also suggest the North's economy is hamstrung by its continued push to develop nuclear weapons and the missiles needed to deploy them against targets in the United States or other hostile nations. They say that because of international sanctions, North Korea's chances of real improvement in its domestic economy are slim at best.

Kim appears to disagree.

This is the second speed campaign his leadership has called this year. The first, which lasted 70 days, ended just before the May party congress. The current campaign, which will continue until Oct. 10, began almost as soon as the congress was over. The party congress was the first in 36 years and further cemented the young leader's stature as the country's supreme leader.

Though the speed campaigns play an important political and social role in asserting the regime's power to rally the nation, improving the economy, which lags far behind neighboring China, Japan and rival South Korea, does genuinely appear to be a key goal of the North Korean leadership.

That desire is also reflected in the North's issuance of a five-year plan during the congress. Few details have been made public, but it's the first such plan North Korea is known to have initiated since the 1980s, when Kim Il Sung, Kim's grandfather, was in power.

Kim's father, Kim Jong Il, stressed a more military-oriented approach. North Korea's launch of more missiles on Wednesday underscores that Kim Jong Un is not about to sway from his father's emphasis on building up the military, despite the cost in lost trade with the outside world and the increased political and diplomatic isolation it brings.

Those North Koreans who are allowed to speak to Western media, meanwhile, are eager to show they are doing their part.

"Normally, I work eight hours a day, from 8 in the morning until noon, and then from 2 until 6 in the evening," said Kang Jong Jin, a 28-year-old former soldier who attaches soles onto shoes at the Wonsan factory. "Now I sometimes stay longer. No one has to tell me to do it. I just do."

Kang, who wants to be an engineer, said he also started taking long-distance learning courses at the factory, which has a teleconferencing room linked to a major university in Pyongyang.

"The marshal wants us to improve our scientific and technological skills," he said, referring to another priority topic at last month's party congress. "So this is how I want to contribute."

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Asian stocks mixed ahead of Britain's referendum

YURI KAGEYAMA, AP Business Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Asian shares were mixed Thursday ahead of a vote on whether Britain will opt to remain in the European Union.

KEEPING SCORE: Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 gained 0.4 percent to 16,122.53 in early trading. Hong Kong's Hang Seng inched up 0.1 percent to 20,819.97, The Shanghai Composite edged down 0.3 percent to 2,896.12. South Korea's Kospi fell 0.4 percent to 1,985.38. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 rose 0.1 percent to 5,278.40.

BRITAIN VOTE: Investors are watching for the outcome of the referendum on Britain's membership in the European Union. An exit may send global shares tumbling, analysts say.

WALL STREET: The Dow Jones industrial average dipped 48.90 points, or 0.3 percent, to 17,780.83. The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 3.45 points, or 0.2 percent, to 2,085.45. The Nasdaq composite edged down 10.44 points, or 0.2 percent, to 4,833.32.

THE QUOTE: "Is Brexit really important? To Britain itself, sure," a report from DBS Bank in Hong Kong said. "To the rest of the world, not so much. From a real economy perspective, Britain could fall off the map tomorrow, and Asia's growth would replace it — and add three more — over the next 8.5 years. No one likes to see self-harm, but the fact is Britain hasn't played a smaller role in the global economy for 400 years."

ENERGY: Benchmark U.S. crude added 49 cents to \$49.62 a barrel. It lost 72 cents, or 1.4 percent, to \$49.13 a barrel in New York on Wednesday. Brent crude, the benchmark for international oil prices, rose 46 cents to \$50.34 a barrel in London.

CURRENCIES: The dollar rose to 104.62 yen from 104.45 yen. The euro rose to \$1.1341, up from \$1.1271.

Today in History The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Thursday, June 23, the 175th day of 2016. There are 191 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On June 23, 1960, the Food and Drug Administration formally approved Enovid as the first oral contraceptive for sale in the U.S.

On this date:

In 1314, during the First War of Scottish Independence, the two-day Battle of Bannockburn, resulting in victory for the forces of Robert the Bruce over the army of King Edward II, began near Stirling.

In 1757, forces of the East India Company led by Robert Clive won the Battle of Plassey, which effectively marked the beginning of British colonial rule in India.

In 1812, Britain, unaware that America had declared war against it five days earlier, rescinded its policy on neutral shipping, a major issue of contention between the two countries.

In 1904, President Theodore Roosevelt was nominated for a second term of office at the Republican national convention in Chicago.

In 1931, aviators Wiley Post and Harold Gatty took off from New York on a round-the-world flight that lasted eight days and 15 hours.

In 1938, the Civil Aeronautics Authority was established.

In 1947, the Senate joined the House in overriding President Harry S. Truman's veto of the Taft-Hart-

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ley Act, designed to limit the power of organized labor.

In 1956, Gamal Abdel Nasser was elected president of Egypt.

In 1969, Warren E. Burger was sworn in as chief justice of the United States by the man he was succeeding, Earl Warren.

In 1972, President Richard Nixon and White House chief of staff H.R. Haldeman discussed using the CIA to obstruct the FBI's Watergate investigation. (Revelation of the tape recording of this conversation sparked Nixon's resignation in 1974.) President Nixon signed Title IX barring discrimination on the basis of sex for "any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance."

In 1985, all 329 people aboard an Air India Boeing 747 were killed when the plane crashed into the Atlantic Ocean near Ireland because of a bomb authorities believe was planted by Sikh separatists.

In 1996, former Greek prime minister Andreas Papandreou died at age 77.

Ten years ago: Vice President Dick Cheney denounced the revelation of an anti-terrorism program that tapped into an immense international database of confidential financial records. Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta announced he was leaving the Bush administration. Television producer Aaron Spelling died in Los Angeles at age 83.

Five years ago: Republicans pulled out of debt-reduction talks led by Vice President Joe Biden, blaming Democrats for demanding tax increases as part of a deal rather than accepting more than \$1 trillion in cuts to Medicare and other government programs. "Columbo" actor Peter Falk died in Beverly Hills, California, at age 83. Composer Fred Steiner, 88, perhaps best known for his "Perry Mason" TV theme, died in Ajijic, Jalisco, Mexico.

One year ago: WikiLeaks published documents it said showed the U.S. National Security Agency had eavesdropped on the last three French presidents, releasing material which appeared to capture officials in Paris talking candidly about Greece's economy, relations with Germany and, ironically, American espionage. The NHL's Board of Governors approved the proposed 3-on-3 overtime change. Actor Dick Van Patten, 86, died in Santa Monica, California.

Today's Birthdays: Singer Diana Trask is 76. Musical conductor James Levine (luh-VYN') is 73. Actor Ted Shackelford is 70. Actor Bryan Brown is 69. Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas is 68. Actor Jim Metzler is 65. "American Idol" ex-judge Randy Jackson is 60. Actress Frances McDormand is 59. Rock musician Steve Shelley (Sonic Youth) is 54. Actor Paul La Greca is 54. Writer-director Joss Whedon is 52. Rhythm-and-blues singer Chico DeBarge is 46. Actress Selma Blair is 44. Rock singer KT Tunstall is 41. Rhythm-and-blues singer Virgo Williams (Ghostowns DJs) is 41. Actress Emmanuelle Vaugier is 40. Singer-songwriter Jason Mraz is 39. Actress Melissa Rauch is 36. Rock singer Duffy is 32. Country singer Katie Armiger is 25.

Thought for Today: "A bore is a man who deprives you of solitude without providing you with company." — Giovanni Vincenzo Gravina, Italian scholar (1664-1718).