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Wednesday, Aug. 3

National Watermelon Day

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

Anniv: Lance & Kristie Hawkins

Birthdays: Mike Sundling • Michelle Kramer • Brad Hamilton

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

12:00pm: Kiwanis meets at the Community Center

5:00pm: Emmanuel Lutheran Sarah Circle

Thursday, Aug. 4

U.S. Coast Guard Day

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

Anniv: Craig & Kim Weber

Birthdays: Kristie Fliehs • Allen McKiver • Tim Berndt • Lindsey Furman

2:00pm: Emmanuel Lutheran Nigeria Circle

Bus Driver Needed

The Groton Area School District has an opening for a morning bus route driver for the 2016-17 school year. Interested persons should contact Superintendent Joe Schwan at 397-2351.

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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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

JOHNSON AGENCY

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Jay Johnson, Broker

www.johnsonagencygroton.com

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Presidential Electors for Libertarian and Constitution Party

Pierre, SD – Secretary of State Shantel Krebs has received the Presidential Electors for the Libertarian and Constitution Parties. Both parties regained status as recognized political parties in South Dakota in 2016.

The Libertarian Party has nominated Gary Johnson of Santa Fe, New Mexico for President and Bill Weld of Canton, Massachusetts for Vice President. Their three Electors are Jon Boon McNutt, Elaine Kub and Richard Shelatz.

The Constitution Party has nominated Darrell L. Castle of Germantown, Tennessee for President and Scott N. Bradley of North Logan, Utah for Vice President. Their three Electors are Frank Howe of Brandon, Joel Bergan of Arlington and Melvin Van Den Top of Sioux Falls.

The Presidential Candidates and their Electors will appear on the November General Election ballot.

New Political Parties

A political party may become a recognized party by filing the appropriate new party formation petitions containing 6,936 signatures of registered South Dakota voters (SDCL 12-5-1). A recognized party would adopt their own procedures on how to select delegates to their national convention and would have their own party column on the general election ballot.

General Information

- There are no separate campaign finance reporting requirements at the state level for federal candidates.
- South Dakota does not assess a filing fee for presidential candidates.
- Write-in votes are not allowed.
- South Dakota has three electoral votes.
- There are no requirements on the form of a candidate's name on a presidential primary ballot in South Dakota.

The 2016 General Election is Tuesday, November 8th.

State Chili Cookoff to be held during Brown County Fair

Aberdeen, SD: The South Dakota State Chili Cook off, sanctioned by the International Chili Society (ICS), will be held beginning at 1 p.m. on Saturday, August 20 on the east side of the Centennial Village at the Brown County Fairgrounds in Aberdeen. Proceeds from the event will benefit the Aberdeen Knights of Columbus, The Aberdeen Optimist Club, and the Aberdeen American Legion.

Booth setup for participants begins at 7 a.m. ICS sanction fee is \$60 per entrant. Individual events have additional entry fees. Events include red chili, chili verde, salsa and cowboy chili (non-sanctioned ICS event.) Cooks are reminded there is no electricity, no shade, no outside beer or alcohol, and dish cleaning stations are required.

Public events start with showmanship starting at 1 p.m., followed by public tasting at 2 p.m. (1 oz. samples are 4 for \$1 donation), and the jalapeno eating contest, belching contest and shoot 'n' holler at 3 p.m. Raffle drawings and awards will be presented at 3:30 p.m. Special awards include showmanship, best booth, virgin chili, best restaurant, best service club and people's choice.

The first place winners will advance to the world championship.

For more information email chairman George P. Sullivan at georgep@abe.midco.net or call 229-4626.

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States Attorney drops all but one charge against city council

The office of the State's Attorney in Aberdeen has responded with a review of the complaints filed by Betty Breck against the City Council. All complaints, except for one, have no merit, according to Brown County States Attorney Larry Lovrien, and have no basis for either criminal prosecution or a referral to the South Dakota Open Meetings Commission for further action.

The single question that is still being considered is that the council went into executive session without voting on it. Lovrien said, "While the minutes of the meeting recite that a vote was taken, the city admits in its response that a review of the video tape of the meeting does not show this to be the case. Accordingly, I am submitting this single question to the South Dakota Open Commission for further review and possible action as provided by SDCL 1-25-6(3)."



This is what the frame looked like after the canvas was removed on the pool umbrella. The umbrella was broken off at the base from Monday night's storm, went across the pool, bent over a basketball hoop, went against the fence and bent it before going over the top and landing out on the street.



One of the largest trees in the city park was blown over from Monday's storm.

NWS assesses storm damage

A cluster of severe thunderstorms dropped southeast out of North Dakota and across northeastern Brown and western Day Counties, producing large hail and winds of 80-90 mph during the late evening of August 1, 2016. The combination of the hail and winds led to significant damage to trees, crops, and buildings in and around Andover. The following pictures come from an NWS Storm Survey of the damage during the morning and early afternoon of August 2, 2016.



Damage to a barn located 1 mile east of Andover



Threshermen's Park building (Andover) removed from foundation and moved over 100 feet.



Metal outbuilding removed from foundation 1 mile east of Andover



Metal from the outbuilding 1 mile east of Andover was thrown northeast across Highway 12. Some of the metal was up to two tenths of a mile away from the building

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Roof removed from an outbuilding 3 miles west-northwest of Bristol



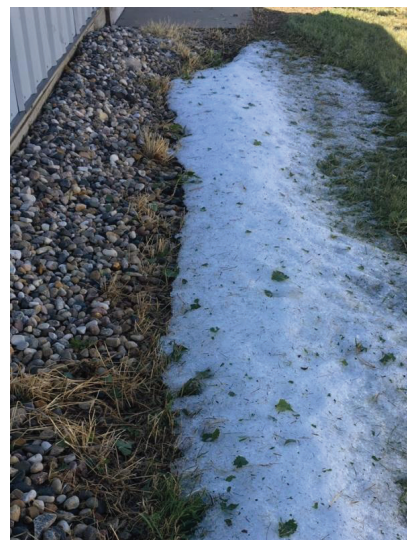
Wall of a building resting on a second building 3 miles west-northwest of Bristol



Building removed from foundation and moved to the east, 3 miles north of Andover



Tree uprooted in a park off Main Street in Groton



Hail still on the ground in Threshermen's Park around 12 hours after it fell

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Hail up to the size of golf balls were reported with the storm and when driven eastward by 80-90 mph winds, the hail produced damage to the siding of several buildings around Andover. In addition to the building damage, corn and bean crops were damaged or destroyed by both the hail/wind to the northwest and southeast of Andover.



Wind driven hail damage to a house on the west side of Andover



One of the several buildings in Threshermen's Park in Andover that were damaged by hail.



Hail damaged corn 4.5 miles northwest of Bristol



Bean crop damage from hail 4.5 miles northwest of Bristol

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Today in Weather History

August 3, 1984: During the morning hours, estimated four to six inches of rain fell from west of Garden City in Clark County to north of Henry in Codington County. Low lying areas were flooded and a potato field west of Garden City was washed out.

August 3, 1989: Strong thunderstorm winds gusted to 70 mph, driving golf ball size hail through most the windows on the west side of buildings in Amherst, Marshall County. Corn crops were stripped off their leaves with an estimated 1800 acres being badly damaged.

August 3, 1996: High winds up to 90 mph uprooted and damaged many trees in Mobridge. Several power lines and poles were downed from trees falling onto them. The roofs of two buildings were blown off while other roofs received some damage. Windows were broken out in eight vehicles at the South Dakota Winds up to 90 mph also caused damage in Herreid where doors on a concrete elevator were blown out.

August 3, 2008: A couple severe thunderstorms moved across north central South Dakota during the early morning hours bringing large hail and damaging thunderstorm winds to the area. Isabel, Timber Lake, and Selby were among the hardest hit locations. Isabel in Dewey County saw eighty mph winds which damaged or downed several trees, damaged carnival equipment, destroyed some sheds, and rolled some large hay bales. Winds up to 80 mph severely damaged a barn, downed some power poles along with many trees and branches in and around Timber Lake. Also, several vehicles and many acres of crops were damaged by the hail and high winds. The Little Moreau Elk Lodge roof was damaged and some windows were broken. One-hundred mph winds downed six power poles and caused considerable damage to sunflowers, corn, wheat, and beans in and around Selby in Walworth County. Also, an empty grain bin was blown over and damaged. Numerous trees were snapped off. The coop seed building in Selby sustained considerable damage with many trees uprooted or damaged throughout town.








August 3, 2009:

A cold front moving southeast across the area brought many severe thunderstorms to parts of central and northeast South Dakota. Large hail up to golf ball size along with wind gusts nearing 80 mph occurred across the area. Brown, Hyde, Lyman, and Gregory Counties were among the hardest hit locations. Many acres of soybeans and corn were significantly damaged by hail and sixty mph winds near Putney in Brown County. Seventy to 80 mph winds brought down several large trees along with many large tree branches in and around Highmore in Hyde County. The strong winds also tipped over a semi, a gravity wagon, and a grain auger along with damaging several fences. There were also power outages in Highmore. Golf ball size hail combined with strong winds broke many windows in the house and dented several vehicles south of Kennebec in Lyman County. The house pet was also injured. Large hail, up to two inches in diameter, fell in a swath a few miles wide from northwestern to south central Gregory County. The hail broke numerous windows, severely damaged siding and roofs of homes and other buildings, and severely damaged vehicles, while covering the ground in several places. Property damage was especially severe in the town of Gregory. Crop damage was also severe along the swath, with corn crops in some areas destroyed to the point of only small stubble left.

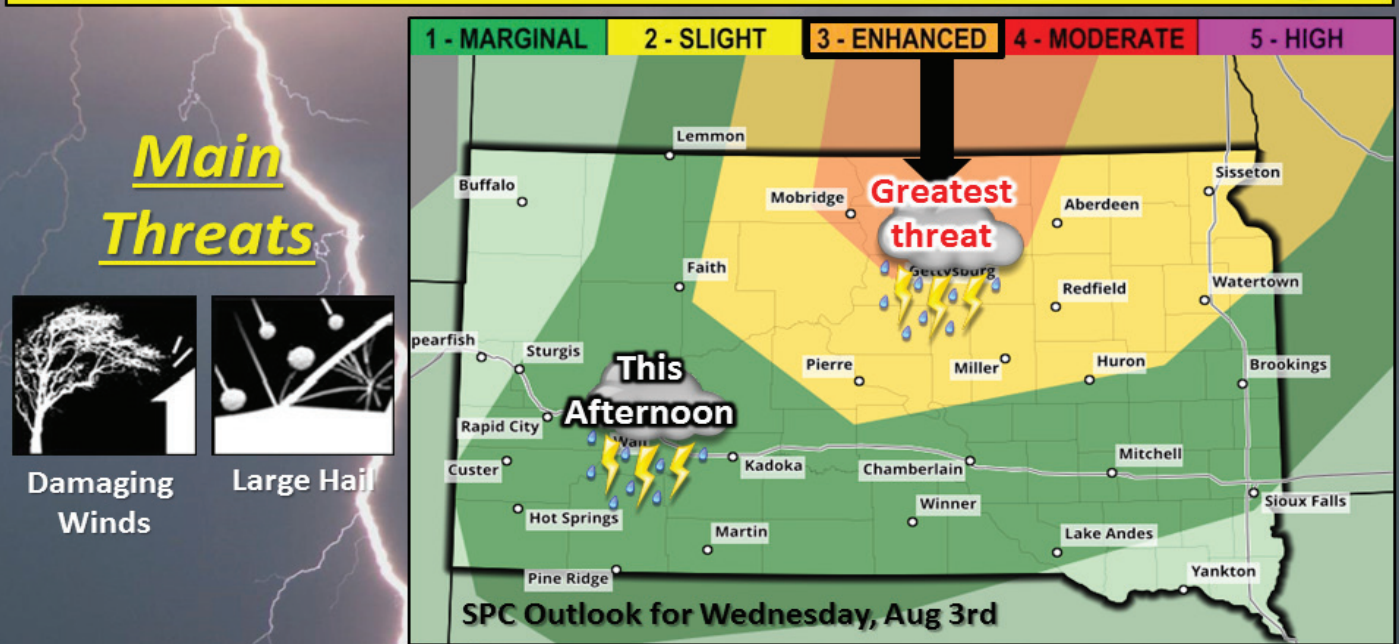
1970: Hurricane Celia was the costliest tropical cyclone in Texas history until Hurricane Alicia in 1983. Hurricane Celia made landfall near Port Aransas as a major Hurricane, category 3 on the Saffir-Simpson scale with sustained winds of 130 mph.

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Today	Tonight	Thursday	Thursday Night	Friday	Friday Night	Saturday
						
Mostly Sunny then Mostly Sunny and Breezy	Severe Thunderstorms 70%	Mostly Sunny then Sunny and Breezy	Mostly Clear	Sunny	Mostly Clear	Mostly Sunny
High: 94 °F	Low: 64 °F	High: 79 °F	Low: 52 °F	High: 79 °F	Low: 56 °F	High: 81 °F

Severe Storms Possible This Evening



North central South Dakota: Between 5 and 8 pm
Northeast SD and western MN: Between 8 and 11pm



National Weather Service Aberdeen, SD



Updated: 8/3/2016 4:33 AM Central

Published on: 08/03/2016 at 5:17AM

A cold front will provide the lift needed for thunderstorms late this afternoon through the overnight hours. This cold front will bring the potential for severe storms, especially across north central and northeastern South Dakota. Large hail and damaging winds will be possible.

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 87.2

Low Outside Temp: 65.8

High Gust: 16

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 107° in 1947

Record Low: 39 in 1971

Average High: 84°F

Average Low: 59°F

Average Precip in Aug: 0.23

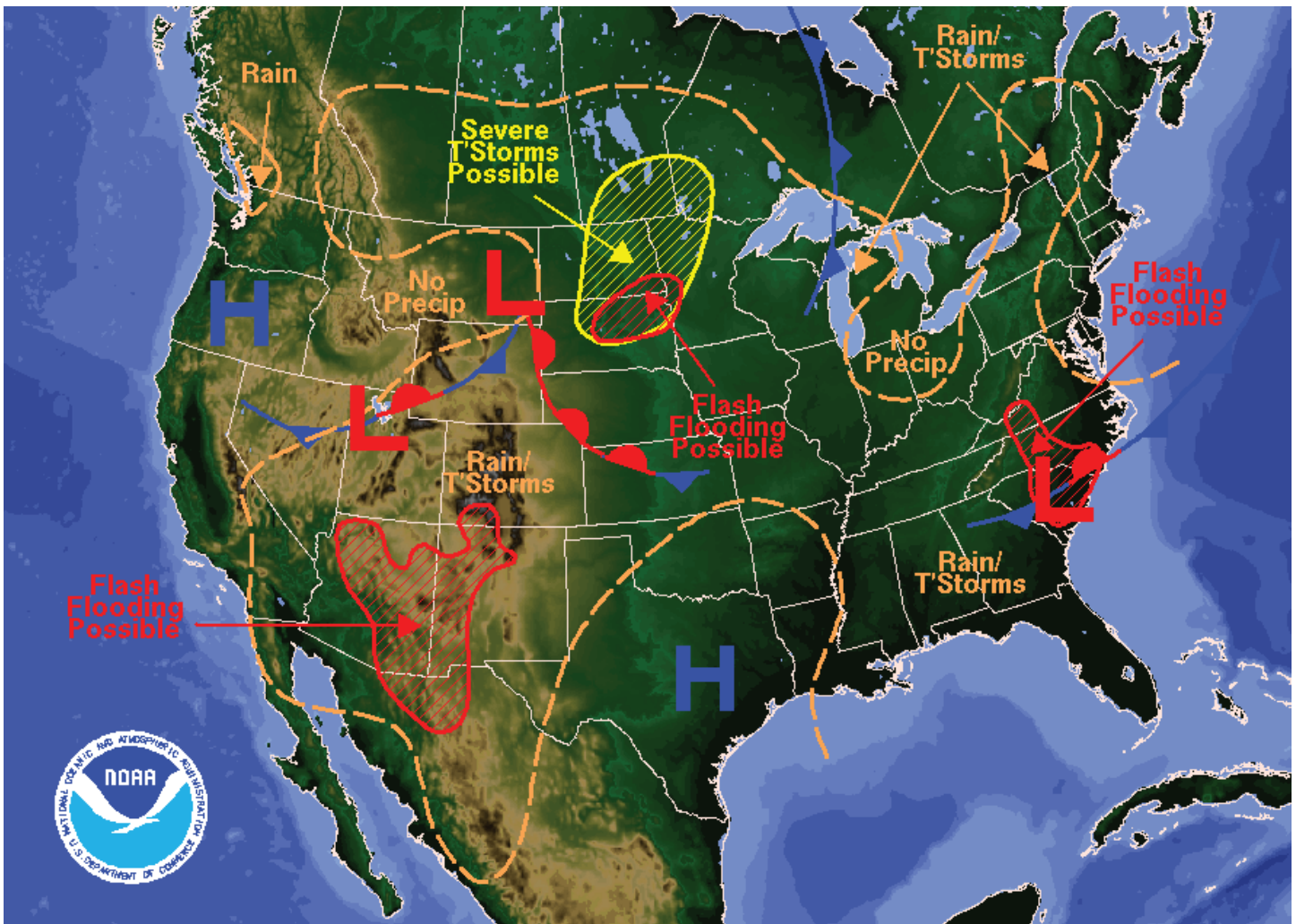
Precip to date in Aug: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 14.09

Precip Year to Date: 10.58

Sunset Tonight: 8:58 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:21 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Wed, Aug 03, 2016, issued 4:39 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McReynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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ACCIDENTS OR APPOINTMENTS?

A rough-and-ready cowboy applied for a large insurance policy. Worried about his life style, the agent was careful and cautious to ask questions to make sure that the cowboy would not take any foolish chances.

"Have you had any accidents?" asked the agent.

"No, not really," he answered. "Come to think of it, though, a rattlesnake bit me and a horse kicked me once."

"Well," questioned the agent, "aren't those accidents?"

"Oh no," he responded. "They did it on purpose!"

There are no accidents in the life of the Christian – only appointments that are from God. They come from Him to let us know that He is with us and working out His will in our lives. God is always working in "everything" not as though He was bored and wanted something to do. Many things that happen to us are not good in themselves, but are good for us because they bring us closer to God.

God through His power and love is able to take every event and turn it into an experience that will fulfill His purpose for our lives. Wherever we are and whatever occurs is because of the fact that Christ is in us preparing us for that time when we will be with Him. We need a heavenly "mindset" that enables us to see beyond the moment and into our future with Him.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, help us to develop an eternal vision that allows us to see that You are active in our lives preparing us for life with You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Romans 8:28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28

Historical society accepting Deadwood Fund applications

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota State Historical Society is accepting applications for the Deadwood Fund grant program.

The historical society said Tuesday that applications should be postmarked by Oct. 1. for work starting no sooner than January.

The Deadwood Fund grant program is meant to spur people or organizations to restore and rehabilitate historic properties.

Grant amounts range from \$1,000 to \$25,000 and require a match. The program is funded through gambling revenue in Deadwood and is put toward projects across the state.

Medical marijuana backer asks court to get measure on ballot

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The sponsor of a medical marijuana ballot measure is asking the courts to overturn the secretary of state's rejection of the initiative for the ballot.

A spokesman for the office said Tuesday the lawsuit is under review. Backers are seeking to get the initiated measure on the November ballot.

Sponsor Melissa Mentele says supporters have followed the law.

Secretary of State Shantel Krebs in May rejected a challenge from advocates over her evaluation that supporters didn't turn in enough valid signatures.

The lawsuit argues that Krebs didn't send proper notice of the decision. It also says the secretary of state erroneously sampled petition signatures and then improperly performed a second sampling.

The proposal is geared toward people with conditions such as cancer who proponents say could be helped by marijuana.

Foes launch campaign against nonpartisan election measure

JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Foes of a constitutional amendment that would remove candidates' party affiliations from primary and general election ballots are casting the measure as a plan to reduce transparency at the polls in an opposition campaign launched Tuesday.

Top Republicans including Gov. Dennis Daugaard, U.S. Sen. John Thune and U.S. Rep. Kristi Noem are opposing the plan, said Will Mortenson, chairman of a group working against the measure.

If approved by a simple majority in the November election, the amendment would establish a nonpartisan primary in races ranging from county to federal that would send the top vote-getters to the general election. It wouldn't apply to presidential contests.

"The more people look at it, the more they are going to realize that it takes information away from the voter," Mortenson said. "When you're in the ballot box, looking at the ballot, you no longer know who these folks are and what they stand for, and that's very problematic."

But supporters argue the measure would help broaden the voter base participating in the political process. Rick Knobe, a leader of a group advancing the measure, said it would boost the quality of candidates and dialogue to get better governance.

"Take a look at Washington, D.C.," said Knobe, a former mayor of Sioux Falls. "They have mastered the art of blaming each other, and they haven't mastered the art of getting things done."

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There shouldn't be political advertising on the ballot, Knobe said, referring to the party designations that candidates currently list.

Backers are pursuing the amendment with help from the New York non-profit Open Primaries.

The governor said the state's current political system is working well, calling the ballot measure an unnecessary experiment that should be avoided.

"I just don't see it as a cure to an ill that exists today in South Dakota," Daugaard said. "It's medicine that a healthy patient doesn't need to take."

HUD head addresses Great Plains Conference on Indian Housing

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — Federal Housing and Urban Development Secretary Julian Castro says too many American Indian youth are living in overcrowded, dilapidated housing unfit to withstand harsh northern winters.

Castro made the comment during the first Great Plains Conference on Indian Housing. It was being held Tuesday at a hotel in Bismarck, North Dakota.

The daylong conference brought together federal, state, local and tribal leaders to focus on addressing housing challenges in Native American communities.

Democratic U.S. Sen. Heidi Heitkamp of North Dakota brought Castro to the Turtle Mountain Indian Reservation in the state in 2014. Castro says he saw firsthand the unsafe housing conditions there.

Heitkamp also spoke at Tuesday's conference, saying a brighter future for Native American youth has to "start at home."

Dakota Access Pipeline foes gather at North Dakota Capitol

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — Opponents of the Dakota Access Pipeline have gathered on the grounds of the North Dakota Capitol to protest.

The Capitol this week is the site of a special session of the Legislature that was called by Gov. Jack Dalrymple to address state budget woes.

The opponents are calling for Dalrymple and legislators to put a halt to construction of the pipeline until tribal lawsuits are addressed.

The \$3.8 billion pipeline being built by Dallas-based Energy Transfer Partners will move oil from North Dakota to Illinois, passing through South Dakota and Iowa.

The pipeline has received strong opposition from environmental and landowner rights groups. Energy Transfer Partners maintains the pipeline will be a safe, cost-effective way to transport oil and will create jobs.

2 juvenile suspects identified in Rapid City grass fire

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Rapid City police have identified two juvenile suspects in a grass fire that blackened more than 13 acres in the city in mid-July.

The two 11-year-olds likely will face charges of reckless burning in juvenile court. Police say one of them also was responsible for another fire in April.

No structures burned in the July fire on what is known as M Hill, and no one was hurt. But the blaze shut down a popular hiking spot and a park and sent smoke over the city.

OSHA cites Watertown roofing company in worker's fatal fall

WATERTOWN, S.D. (AP) — The Occupational Safety and Health Administration has cited a Watertown company in the death of a worker who fell from the roof of the city's community center.

Twenty-four-year-old Justin Althoff, of Watertown, died in April after falling more than 33 feet. OSHA determined that Althoff lacked an adequate fall-protection system, and that his employer failed to train him to work safely at heights.

OSHA is proposing \$77,000 in fines against Pro-Tec Roofing Inc. The company has about 15 days to decide whether to contest the agency's findings, which include two willful and eight serious safety violations.

A person who answered the phone at the company on Tuesday declined comment.

5-time national champ NDSU tops MVFC preseason poll

FARGO, N.D. (AP) — Five-time defending national champion North Dakota State has been tabbed as the favorite to win this year's Missouri Valley Football Conference title.

The Bison earned 37 of a possible 39 first-place votes in the preseason poll conducted among the league's coaches, sports information directors and select media representatives.

Northern Iowa received the other two first-place votes to finish second in the poll, followed by South Dakota State, Illinois State and Youngstown State.

Rounding out the top 10 are Western Illinois, South Dakota, Southern Illinois, Indiana State and Missouri State.

NDSU captured its fifth consecutive Football Championship Subdivision crown in January with a 37-10 win over Jacksonville State.

This is the fifth straight season that the Bison have topped the conference preseason poll.

Baseball coach with more than 500 wins to lead SDSU program

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — A college baseball coach with more than 500 victories to his credit is the new leader of South Dakota State University's program.

The Brookings school has hired Rob Bishop as head baseball coach. Athletic Director Justin Sell says one factor in the decision is Bishop's "track record of building successful programs."

Bishop has a 549-322-1 career record, coaching at schools in South Dakota and Montana.

Bishop is a 1994 graduate of Jamestown College in North Dakota, where he earned NAIA All-America honors during the 1992 and 1994 seasons as an infielder.

He began his coaching career as a graduate assistant at SDSU and most recently was coach at Montana State University-Billings.

\$32 million grain terminal opens for business at Britton

BRITTON, S.D. (AP) — A \$32 million grain terminal that has been in the works for more than a decade has opened for business at Britton.

A grand opening celebration was held Monday for the Wheaton Dumont Britton Grain Terminal, with Gov. Dennis Daugaard on hand.

Elevator officials talked about a new terminal for years but construction of the facility didn't begin until April 2015, a few months after Daugaard announced \$11.5 million in upgrades to the state-owned rail line serving the elevator.

"This day has been a long time coming," said elevator board member Vaughan Maudal.

The rail line upgrades, which should be complete this month, were necessary to accommodate larger,

faster trains. The state decided to fund the improvements because "agriculture is the foundation of South Dakota's economy," Daugaard said Monday.

The new terminal can hold up to 7 million bushels of grain and is capable of loading 120-car trains. Since it is on a state-owned rail line, it will be serviced by both Canadian Pacific Railway and BNSF Railway.

"The weakness that plagued us from the very beginning may ultimately lead to the terminal's greatest strength," General Manager Philip Deal said.

Trump taunts GOP, refusing to back Ryan, McCain

ERICA WERNER, AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — Donald Trump is openly taunting the leaders of his own party by refusing to endorse House Speaker Paul Ryan of Wisconsin and Sen. John McCain of Arizona in their GOP primaries. Yet thus far, McCain, Ryan and other Republicans who've reluctantly declared that they plan to back Trump for president appear to be sticking with him.

Trump's stunning slap at two of the nation's most prominent Republicans dramatically escalated GOP turmoil barely a week after a convention intended to promote party unity. With the general election campaign now squarely underway, Republicans found themselves once again forced to answer questions about the latest boundary-defying pronouncement from Trump at a moment when most would rather be talking about Hillary Clinton's record.

Trump made his declarations in an interview with The Washington Post in which he also lit into New Hampshire GOP Sen. Kelly Ayotte. All three lawmakers are facing primary challenges from the right in coming weeks, though all are expected to prevail, and each had criticized Trump's attacks on the Muslim American parents of an Army captain killed in Iraq.

Trump's rebuke to Ryan carried particular derision.

"I'm just not there yet," Trump said, closely echoing Ryan's own demurrals before eventually endorsing Trump, when he told CNN on May 6, "I'm not there right now."

"I like Paul, but these are horrible times for our country. We need very strong leadership. We need very, very strong leadership. And I'm just not quite there yet," Trump told the Post, offering praise for Ryan's longshot opponent, Paul Nehlen, for running "a very good campaign."

Trump also claimed Ryan had asked for his support, something Ryan's aides denied.

"Neither Speaker Ryan nor anyone on his team has ever asked for Donald Trump's endorsement," said Zack Roday, Ryan's campaign spokesman. "And we are confident in a victory next week, regardless."

Of McCain, whom he'd previously criticized for being taken captive in Vietnam, Trump said: "I've never been there with John McCain because I've always felt that he should have done a much better job for the vets."

And bringing up Ayotte: "I don't know Kelly Ayotte. I know she's given me no support — zero support — and yet I'm leading her in the polls. I'm doing very well in New Hampshire. We need loyal people in this country. We need fighters in this country. We don't need weak people."

Trump's comments appeared to represent the most dramatic break yet with a Republican establishment whose support for their presidential nominee has been reluctant at best. It came on the same day that President Barack Obama declared Trump unfit to serve as president and questioned why McCain, Ryan and other GOP leaders continued to support him, especially in light of Trump's attacks on a pair of bereaved Army parents who took the stage at the Democratic National Convention to oppose him.

McCain had been particularly incensed over Trump's insults against the parents of U.S. Army Capt. Humayun Khan, chiding Trump's decision to "defame those who are the best among us."

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Yet it was not clear that, even as Trump found another line to cross and another political norm to defy, any Republicans would rescind their support. None did so publicly and aides to both Ryan and Ayotte made clear their plans hadn't changed. McCain met privately Tuesday night with Trump's vice presidential running mate, Indiana Gov. Mike Pence.

For his part, Trump sent a Twitter post from @realDonaldTrump early Wednesday proclaiming, "There is greater unity in my campaign, perhaps greater than ever before."

For Republicans, renouncing Trump might not yield much benefit beyond ensuring more headlines connecting them to Trump, something most want to avoid. Instead, vulnerable Senate Republicans like Ayotte and McCain are trying to focus on running their own races and hoping voters will make a distinction between them and Trump, something some polls suggest may be happening.

"I call it like I see it, and I'm always going to stand up for our military families and what's best for the people of New Hampshire," was all Ayotte would say.

Emirates airliner with 300 onboard crash lands in Dubai

ADAM SCHRECK, Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — An Emirates flight from India with 300 people on board crash landed at Dubai's main airport on Wednesday, sending black smoke billowing into the air and halting all traffic at the Middle East's busiest airport. Authorities said all passengers were evacuated safely.

Dubai-based Emirates said the accident happened around 12:45 p.m. local time as Flight EK521 was arriving from the southern Indian city of Thiruvananthapuram.

It confirmed there were no fatalities and said "all passengers and crew are accounted for and safe."

The Boeing 777 was carrying 282 passengers and 18 crew members, according to the airline, which had earlier provided a lower figure.

The Dubai government's official media office separately said that all passengers were "evacuated safely and no injuries have been reported so far."

It said authorities were "dealing with the incident at the moment to ensure safety of all" and that all departures from the airport had been halted until further notice. Emirates predicted there would be a four-hour delay in operations across its network.

"Our main priority at this time is the safety and wellbeing of all involved and full co-operation is being extended to the authorities and emergency services managing the situation," the carrier said.

Video posted online showed black smoke billowing from what looked like an Emirates jetliner lying on its belly on the runway.

Firefighters soon managed to bring the fire under control, with Associated Press journalists at the airport reporting that the charred fuselage of the plane appeared to no longer be burning. The top of the aircraft was scorched brown from near the cockpit back to its tail. Several yellow fire trucks surrounded the plane.

Dubai resident Girisankal Gangadhakan said his wife called him after the plane landed to tell him that she and their three children onboard had been involved in an accident but were safe.

"I was shocked when I heard about that," he said.

The Boeing 777 departed Thiruvananthapuram at 10:19 a.m. and was scheduled to land at 12:50 p.m. local time, according to Emirates.

Thiruvananthapuram is the capital of the southwestern Indian state of Kerala. Many blue-collar migrant workers employed in the United Arab Emirates and other Gulf nations come from Kerala, which is a popular beachside tourist destination.

Officials from the airline and Dubai International Airport declined to immediately provide further de-

tails when reached by phone.

Dubai International is by far the Mideast's busiest airport, and is the world's busiest air hub in terms of international passenger traffic. Government-backed Emirates is the region's biggest carrier, and operates the world's largest airline fleet of the wide-body 777 long-haul aircraft.

The Latest: Trump claims unity in his campaign

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Latest on the U.S. presidential race (all times EDT):

7:15 a.m.

Donald Trump says there's "great unity" in his campaign —despite growing dissent and turmoil among his fellow Republicans.

Trump tweeted Wednesday that the campaign unity is "perhaps greater than ever before."

That comes as he continues to face criticism from Republican lawmakers for attacking the Muslim-American parents of a U.S. Army captain killed in Iraq. The soldier's father had criticized Trump at last week's Democratic convention.

On Tuesday, Meg Whitman, a prominent Republican fundraiser and former Hewlett-Packard executive said she would back Democrat Hillary Clinton. Also, Rep. Richard Hanna of New York became the first Republican member of Congress to say he will vote for Clinton.

3:30 a.m.

Donald Trump is openly taunting the leaders of his own party by refusing to endorse House Speaker Paul Ryan of Wisconsin and Sen. John McCain of Arizona in their GOP primaries.

And so far, McCain, Ryan and other Republicans who've reluctantly declared that they plan to back Trump for president appear to be sticking with him.

Trump's stunning slap at two of the nation's most prominent Republicans dramatically escalated GOP turmoil barely a week after a convention intended to promote party unity.

With the general election campaign now squarely underway, Republicans found themselves once again forced to answer questions about the latest boundary-defying pronouncement from Trump at a moment when most would rather be talking about Hillary Clinton's record.

China's Jade Rabbit lunar rover ends mission after 31 months

BEIJING (AP) — China's Jade Rabbit lunar rover, which won a large following on social media, has been retired after a record 31 months of collecting data from the moon's surface, state media reported Wednesday.

The rover arrived on the moon on Dec. 14, 2013, aboard the Chang'e 3 lunar lander and was designed to operate for just three months.

On July 28, Chang'e 3 went into hibernation for the 14-day lunar night and Jade Rabbit ceased operations, state media reported, citing the State Administration for Science, Technology and Industry for National Defense.

Jade Rabbit, or Yutu in Chinese, posted a final farewell on its Twitter-like Weibo microblog, questioning whether it would one day be returned to Earth. "I'm a rabbit that has seen the most stars!" the post said.

The rover's 972 operational days far exceeded the 322 chalked up by the former Soviet Union's Lunokhod 1 in 1970, achieving another milestone in China's fast-developing space program. Just weeks after

it landed, engineers feared they'd lost it when it shut down under abnormal conditions, but it revived and appeared to operate efficiently until its final shutdown last week.

The rover's cameras, telescopes and radar made it a key part of the mission. Data it produced offered insights into the geological evolution of the moon.

China will attempt to land an unmanned spaceship on the moon next year that would return to Earth with samples. Only the United States and Russia have previously carried out such a maneuver successfully.

China has also hinted at a possible crewed mission to the moon.

China sent its first astronaut into space in 2003 and has powered ahead with a series of methodically timed steps, including the deploying of an experimental space station.

Chang'e is the name of a mythical Chinese goddess said to live on the moon and Yutu was her pet.

N. Korea fires mid-range missile toward waters near Japan

HYUNG-JIN KIM, Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — A medium-range ballistic missile fired Wednesday by North Korea flew about 1,000 kilometers (620 miles) and landed near Japan's territorial waters, Seoul and Tokyo officials said, one of the longest flights by a North Korean missile.

The U.S. Strategic Command said North Korea fired two presumed Rodong missiles simultaneously on Wednesday, not just one. The command's statement said initial indications reveal one of the missiles exploded immediately after launch, while the second was tracked over North Korea and into the Sea of Japan.

North Korea has recently claimed a series of technical breakthroughs over its goal of acquiring a long-range nuclear missile capable of reaching the continental U.S. South Korean defense officials say North Korea doesn't yet have such a weapon, but some civilian experts believe the North has the technology to mount warheads on shorter-range Rodong and Scud missiles that can strike South Korea and Japan.

According to the South Korean and Japanese announcements, one suspected Rodong missile lifted off from the North's western Hwanghae province and flew across the country before falling in waters between the Korean Peninsula and Japan. Seoul's Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement that it "strongly condemns" the missile launch because it explicitly shows the North's intentions of being able to launch missile attacks on South Korea and neighboring countries.

Japan's Defense Ministry said the missile landed inside Japan's exclusive economic zone, the 200-nautical-mile offshore area where a nation has sovereign rights for exploring and exploiting resources. Japanese media reported it was the first North Korean missile that has splashed down in Japan's EEZ.

"It imposes a serious threat to Japan's security and it is unforgivable act of violence toward Japan's security," Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said.

North Korea has previously fired Rodong and other missiles into the sea, but South Korean analysts say Wednesday's 1,000 kilometer flight was one of the longest for a North Korean test.

Several other North Korean rockets have gone farther and even over Japan. But Pyongyang called them satellite launches while Washington, Seoul and Tokyo said they were disguised tests of missile technology. After several failures, the North put its first satellite into space aboard a long-range rocket in December 2012, and conducted another successful satellite launch in February.

In June, North Korea, after a string of failures, sent another type of mid-range missile known as Musudan more than 1,400 kilometers (870 miles) high. Analysts said the high-altitude flight meant North Korea had made progress in its push to be able to strike U.S. forces throughout the region.

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North Korea routinely conducts weapons tests, but the latest launch came after North Korea warned of unspecified “physical counter-actions” against a U.S. plan to deploy an advanced missile defense system in South Korea by the end of next year.

On July 19, North Korea fired three ballistic missiles into the sea, according to Seoul defense officials. The North’s state media later confirmed that it fired ballistic rockets carrying trigger devices for nuclear warheads as part of simulated pre-emptive atomic attacks on South Korea.

Analyst Kim Dong-yub at Seoul’s Institute for Far East Studies said the latest Rodong launch appeared to be aimed at showing an ability to attack U.S. military bases in Japan, a major source of reinforcements for U.S. troops should a war break out on the Korean Peninsula.

Hyon Kwang Il, director of the scientific research department at the North’s National Aerospace Development Administration, told The Associated Press last week that Pyongyang’s military had mastered “the main and core techniques in long-range ballistic missile technology, including the starter engine technology, how to separate the different stages, guidance control techniques and re-entry and it’s all ready to be operational.”

North Korea is known to have an arsenal of estimated 300 Rodong missiles whose maximum range is 1,300 kilometers (800 miles). A Rodong fired in March flew about 800 kilometers (500 miles) while two other Rodongs launched in 2014 flew about 650 kilometers (400 miles).

North Korea is expected to carry out more weapons launches in coming weeks to protest annual U.S.-South Korean military drills that begin later this month. North Korea describes the drills as an invasion rehearsal.

The Korean Peninsula remains in a technical state of war because the 1950-53 Korean War ended with an armistice, not a peace treaty. About 28,500 U.S. troops are stationed in South Korea and tens of thousands of more in Japan.

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. EMIRATES CITES ‘INCIDENT’ AT DUBAI AIRPORT

Video posted online shows smoke coming from a plane at the scene and the Dubai government says all passengers were “evacuated safely.”

2. TRUMP TAUNTS REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP

By declaring he’s “just not there yet,” the billionaire businessman violates another political norm by refusing to endorse Paul Ryan and John McCain, matching their own reluctance to back him for president.

3. KOREAN MISSILE REACHES SEA OF JAPAN

A medium-range ballistic rocket fired by North Korea flew about 620 miles and landed near Japan’s territorial waters, officials say, one of the longest flights by a North Korean missile.

4. HAVE NO FEAR, RIO CAN THROW A PARTY

If previous Olympics are a guide, once the competitions start, most if not all of the problems fade to the background — at least for the athletes, tourists and millions watching around the world.

5. WHERE AMERICANS ACTUALLY AGREE

Survey data, academic research and conversations with people across the U.S. show consensus not only on such matters as sports or pop culture, but on deep beliefs and even some polarizing issues.

6. ‘IT WAS A VERY UGLY ACCIDENT’

A charter bus is nearly sliced in half after plowing into a pole on a rural California highway, killing five people and leaving the survivors amid a nightmare of screams and severed limbs.

7. WHAT IS FACING NYC'S TOP COP

James O'Neill, New York City's new police commissioner, will be tasked with improving a rocky relationship with minorities.

8. CHINA'S COMMUNIST PARTY CRACKING DOWN ON DISSENT

A Chinese legal rights activist is sentenced to 7 ½ years in prison on subversion charges, the second in a series of cases underscoring Beijing's determination to rein in government critics.

9. DESPITE PLEDGES, HARDSHIP FOR MIDEAST SCHOOLS

Schools in the Middle East are facing major budget shortfalls ahead of the new academic year, leaving some 1 million Syrian refugee children out of the classroom, a global children's charity finds.

10. OBAMA SETTLES ON LIBRARY LOCATION

The Obama Foundation is set to unveil details about its plan to build the 44th U.S. president's library in a lakeside park in Chicago's South Side.

London's police force puts more armed officers on streets

LONDON (AP) — London's police force is putting more armed officers on the streets — a visible response to attacks by Islamic State-inspired groups in Europe.

Metropolitan Police chief Bernard Hogan-Howe said Wednesday he's increasing the number and the visibility of the officers "to protect the public from all manner of threats."

The training of the officers was announced earlier this year and their deployment came after Hogan-Howe warned recently an attack in Britain was a case of "when, not if."

Londoners are proud that most police do not carry guns, and the fundamental principle remains unchanged. Even with the changes, most of London's 31,000 police officers will not be armed.

But the recent attacks underscore the challenge police face in responding to a situation in which they are outgunned.

2nd legal activist sentenced as China reins in critics

CHRISTOPHER BODEEN, Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — A Chinese legal rights activist was sentenced to 7 ½ years in prison on subversion charges Wednesday, in the second in a series of cases underscoring the ruling Communist Party's determination to rein in government critics.

State broadcaster CCTV said Hu Shigen had pleaded guilty to "subversion, damaging national security and harming social stability" at the start of his hearing before the Tianjin No. 2 Intermediate People's Court.

It said Hu had decided not to appeal the sentence.

His brief trial came a day after the court issued a suspended three-year sentence to activist Zhai Yanmin. Both were arrested in July last year with two others as part of a nationwide crackdown on legal rights activists. About 300 lawyers and activists were initially seized and questioned before most were released.

Hu, 61, was accused of leading an "underground organization" that masqueraded as a church but was dedicated to identifying and drawing attention to accusations of government abuses. He worked with others, some of whom are also facing trial this week, to "organize activities that manipulated public opinion and disturbed public order," prosecutors were quoted as saying by state media.

"Hu's ideology and his behaviors have seriously harmed the country and social stability," state media quoted prosecutors as saying.

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Hu had been sentenced in 1994 to 20 years in prison on the now-abolished charge of counterrevolution in connection with his political activities, but was released in 2008 after his sentence was reduced. His previous prison term contributed to his harsh sentencing in the most recent case, prosecutors said. "After completing his criminal punishment, Hu Shigen again committed crimes against national security and, as a recidivist, should be severely punished under the law," prosecutors said.

A graduate of prestigious Peking University, Hu was a professor in the capital when he became active with a would-be political opposition party following the army's violent crackdown on 1989 pro-democracy protests centered on Beijing's Tiananmen Square.

Two other cases are expected to be heard by the court in the northern Chinese city this week, including those of activist Gou Hongguo and lawyer Zhou Shifeng, head of the Fengrui Law Firm that frequently took on sensitive cases and represented numerous government critics.

More than a dozen other lawyers and activists remain jailed, their legal status uncertain.

The trials are part of a pattern established under the administration of President Xi Jinping to use more sophisticated legal means to attack perceived opponents as it maintains pressure on activists and non-governmental organizations.

Several, including fellow Fengrui lawyer Wang Yu have made televised apologies for the crimes they are accused of and denouncing the legal activism as directed by unidentified "hostile foreign forces" to smear and attack the Chinese government.

Activists such as Hu and Zhai worked alone or in affiliation with law firms to gather evidence of government abuses and lead clients and the disgruntled in street protests while spreading word online. Their actions were harshly denounced by the authorities as interference in the legal process.

Many family members of those being held say they and their retained lawyers have been denied access to the detainees for more than a year, receiving only occasional updates by word of mouth. Some have been briefly detained themselves while seeking information.

Paul Ryan, Wasserman Schultz to test anti-establishment mood

ALAN FRAM, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — House Speaker Paul Ryan and Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz are about to test voters' anti-establishment mood, first hand.

In an election year that's seen both parties' supporters seethe against Washington, 15 states from Florida to Arizona still have House primaries. That includes challenges against Ryan, R-Wis., and Wasserman Schultz, D-Fla., who abruptly resigned last week as chair of the Democratic National Committee.

Both seem likely to prevail, but surprises can happen in low-turnout summer primaries.

Here's a look at noteworthy contests, a prelude to a November election in which Democrats will make a long-shot bid to capture House control:

THE BACK STORY

Before this week, 31 states had held 2016 House primaries. Three incumbents lost, but none of their races supported the argument that voters want to throw the incumbents out — of the House, anyway.

Rep. Renee Ellmers fell to fellow North Carolina GOP Rep. George Holding, and Virginia Republican Rep. Randy Forbes also lost, victims of court-ordered, redrawn district lines. Rep. Chaka Fattah, D-Pa., was defeated in April after indictment on federal corruption charges. He was later convicted and quit Congress.

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THIS WEEK

Four states held House primaries Tuesday.

In the most striking, Rep. Tim Huelskamp, R-Kan., a tea partyer and persistent annoyance to GOP leaders, lost his attempt for a fourth term.

Huelskamp's contest against Roger Marshall, an obstetrician, was unusual because GOP primary challengers usually accuse incumbents of being insufficiently conservative. Marshall argued that Huelskamp's rebelliousness got him kicked off the House Agriculture Committee, which is vital for western Kansas.

Their contest became a proxy battle between GOP conservatives and pragmatists. The anti-tax Club for Growth spent \$400,000 to help Huelskamp and members of the conservative House Freedom Caucus campaigned for him. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the Ending Spending Action Fund, which wants to curb federal expenditures, spent big dollars against him.

RYAN'S RACE

Political novice Paul Nehlen wants to end Ryan's House career after nine terms, and he's getting help from Donald Trump. An unlikely defeat in the Aug. 9 primary would probably spell political doom for the GOP's 2012 vice presidential candidate and potential future presidential contender.

A tattooed, motorcycle-riding businessman, Nehlen labeled the speaker "Lyn' Ryan" on Twitter. He's attacked Ryan for favoring a Pacific trade deal and accuses him of being lax on immigration and beholden to the establishment.

Nehlen got a boost from Trump when the GOP presidential candidate said in a Tuesday interview with The Washington Post that he is "not quite there yet" in endorsing Ryan. That could be payback for Ryan saying in May that he was "just not ready" to back Trump. Ryan subsequently endorsed Trump but has criticized him frequently, and their relationship is cool.

Trump praised Nehlen this week for defending his criticism of the Muslim parents of an American soldier slain in Iraq.

Ryan campaign spokesman Zack Roday expressed confidence in a primary victory and said, "Neither Speaker Ryan nor anyone on his team has ever asked for Donald Trump's endorsement."

Ryan has raised 12 times the \$489,000 Nehlen has reported collecting. Not taking chances, Ryan is airing his third TV ad, with people waving flags and praying as Ryan tells the camera, "I am committed to securing our borders."

WASSERMAN SCHULTZ'S TRAVAILS

Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders complained that Wasserman Schultz's DNC, which historically has remained neutral in presidential primary season, backed his victorious Democratic presidential rival, Hillary Clinton. Wasserman Schultz abandoned her party post as last week's Democratic convention began after leaked emails revealed party staffers doing just what Sanders suspected.

That's turned Wasserman Schultz's focus to her Aug. 30 primary, where she's opposed by upstart law professor Tim Canova. He's backed by Sanders and has mimicked Sanders' populist style by raising huge sums from small individual contributions. That's let Canova stay surprisingly competitive financially, raising \$2.3 million compared to Wasserman Schultz's \$3.1 million.

Yet the Miami-area district favored Clinton over Sanders by 2-1 in March's presidential primary. And Wasserman Schultz, seeking a seventh House term, gets high marks for paying attention back home.

ALSO IN FLORIDA

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About half of Florida's 27 districts feature competitive primaries, including seven where incumbents are stepping down or running for the Senate:

—Republican Rep. Jeff Miller is leaving a Panhandle seat so conservative that one leading competitor, State Sen. Greg Evers, raffled off an AR-15 rifle among people who "liked" his Facebook page. Another, State Rep. Matt Gaetz, backed a local sheriff who called the Black Lives Matter group "a terrorist organization."

—Democratic Rep. Corrine Brown, indicted on federal fraud charges, faces strong competition in north Florida.

—GOP Rep. Dan Webster, who unsuccessfully challenged Rep. John Boehner for the House speaker-ship in 2015, is seeking a different open seat after his district became too Democratic.

OTHER NOTABLE PRIMARIES

—Liz Cheney, daughter of former Vice President Dick Cheney, is a favorite GOP contender for Wyoming's open, lone House seat Aug. 16.

—An Aug. 30 fight among Republicans for the northern Arizona seat of Democratic Rep. Ann Kirkpatrick, who's challenging GOP Sen. John McCain.

—A Sept. 13 challenge to Rep. Frank Guinta, R-N.H., perhaps the most endangered House incumbent, whom the Federal Election Commission said accepted illegal 2010 campaign contributions from his parents.

Fears about Rio Games? Don't forget Brazilian party skills

PETER PRENGAMAN, Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — For months, fears about the Rio de Janeiro Olympics have been hogging the spotlight.

There are concerns about safety amid a surge of murders in Rio and extremist attacks in Europe and the United States. Polluted beaches and other waterways could make athletes and visitors ill, and the Zika virus has scared some competitors away.

If all that wasn't enough, the state of Rio is so broke that months ago it stopped paying thousands of public employees; Angry police have periodically been greeting tourists in the international airport with signs that say, "Welcome to hell!"

If history is a guide, however, a focus on the problems is all part of the script in the run up to the games. Once the competitions start, most if not all of the problems fade into the background — at least for the athletes, tourists and millions watching around the world.

Such negative coverage has a "very simple explanation," says Michael Heine, director of the Center for Olympic Studies at Western University.

"The event is about sports, but you can't find sporting material because the whistle hasn't gone yet," said Heine. "So what else do you write about?"

Coverage ahead of the 2012 Olympics in London included stories about terrorism fears and concerns about civil liberties in light of increased military and police presence. The run up to 2008 Games in Beijing put a spotlight on authoritarianism and extreme air pollution in China. In Athens 2004, there were myriad questions about whether the venues would be done in time.

Many Brazilians feel frustrated that the expectations are overwhelmingly negative, especially when the country has pulled off big events like the 2014 World Cup.

They argue that such accounts don't take into account Brazilian "jeito," or way of doing things, which

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includes an easy-going nature and a penchant for successfully pulling things off at the last moment. And the doomsday scenarios all but ignore samba dancing and capoeira martial arts, beautiful coastlines contrasted by mountains covered with lush jungle, stunning sunrises and sunsets, caipirinha cocktails and culinary options that range from meat-eaters' delights to exotic fish plucked from the Amazon River.

"No one throws parties like Brazil," said Denis Eduardo, a 34-year-old travel agent from Sao Paulo traveling to Rio for the games. "People might be bashing Brazil now, as if all previous Olympics had been perfect, but it won't be long until they are all enjoying it here."

Brazil's problems, however, go beyond what other recent countries hosting the Olympics have faced. Latin America's largest economy and most populous nation is suffering its worst recession in decades. A political crisis has paralyzed the country and brought out deep polarization — which could very well translate into large protests during the competitions.

The opening ceremony will highlight the cloud hanging over the country: Interim President Michel Temer will ring in the games while impeached President Dilma Rousseff, suspended for alleged fiscal irregularities in her managing of the budget, stays home.

Even in normal times, Brazil's infrastructure is poor. Building collapses are frequent, clogged and potholed plagued streets turn traffic into parking lots and electricity and running water are not always a given, even in rich areas.

When the Australian delegation complained last week about dangling wires, bursting toilets and gas smells in the Olympic Village apartments, they were experiencing things that are common for Brazilians.

The April collapse of a coastal bike lane, an Olympics legacy project inaugurated with much fanfare just a few months before, underscored how dangerous shoddy construction can be. Two men plunged to their death when a big wave turned a large chunk of the path into a mountain of concrete and metal.

The lane has been shut down while authorities investigate. However, there is little doubt that the engineering was deficient or the construction was faulty, or a combination of both.

David Wallechinsky, president of the International Society of Olympic Historians who will be attending the games, says the last-minute completion of major projects reminds him of an episode in Athens.

On the way back from watching a beach volleyball game, his wife and son got stuck in a newly-built metro train. It was over 90 degrees and the doors were not working, so several men pried them open.

When Wallechinsky looked into it he was told: "We just inaugurated it yesterday."

In Brazil, "are they doing this for the metro system, the venues? Has everything been checked out?" he asked.

Arguably the biggest fear is security. The recession has exacerbated the already precarious situation of millions who live in the city's hundreds of slums; Armed men sometimes descend from the hills to rob unsuspecting tourists and more well-to-do locals.

After recent attacks in Orlando, Florida, and Nice, France, Brazilian authorities have gone on the offensive in recent weeks, arresting more than a dozen men who had expressed allegiance to the Islamic State group — but had done almost nothing to actually plan an attack.

Soldiers wearing bullet proof vests and carrying automatic weapons have been blanketing the airports, malls and tourist areas in recent weeks. Authorities say 85,000 soldiers and police will be on hand during the games, roughly twice the number on hand in London.

"I understand that people are concerned about security," said Alexandre Braga, chief of the city's tourist police unit. "But I don't think there will be any major problems in Rio."

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America in one word? 'Free,' 'great,' or 'divided,' 'broken'

MATT SEDENSKY, AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Free and great, or divided and confused. Diverse and powerful, or troubled and broken. In search of a single word encapsulating their country at this moment, Americans offered pollsters a lexicon reflecting both hope and dissonance.

The most-uttered word from about 1,000 responses to the Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research survey was "freedom," with "free" not far behind at No. 4. "Great" took second place — and "good," "powerful," "wonderful" and "awesome" also occupied the top tier. But crowding the list were entries mirroring national angst.

"Divided" ranked third, and "confused" and "troubled" tied for fifth, amassed alongside other words of distress: "broken," "lost," and more bluntly, "screwed."

Pollsters say grouping people's answers together with synonyms and related words is a better reflection of public sentiment. Viewed that way, "struggling," "declining" and their synonyms accounted for the biggest chunk of words, from about one-fifth of answers. Some 18 percent of respondents offered words related to American greatness, prosperity and power, which collectively ranked second, followed by those linked to freedom (15 percent), and "confused," "lost" and similar choices (10 percent).

Positive and negative words were almost evenly split.

"When you see words like 'freedom' and 'divided' together, you get a good little portrait of what people are thinking," said Peter Sokolowski, editor-at-large at Merriam-Webster, the dictionary publisher. "You can't get more balanced than that."

Republicans used "struggling," "declining" and similar terms more than Democrats (27 percent versus 15 percent). Those without college degrees were also likelier to do so.

Bobby Underwood, a 67-year-old retired carpet mill worker in Dalton, Georgia, chose "troubled" when challenged to describe his country. With killings of police officers, Islamic State group attacks, a divisive election and concerns about the economy and illegal immigration, Underwood said he was left with an unhappy word in his mind.

"Troubled," he said. "That pretty much sums it up for me."

More than 350 individual words flowed into the poll released this week — from "bossy," "boring," "bountiful" and "bigoted" to "eclectic," "enthusiastic" and "equal." Also: "paradise," "perplexing," and a few cases of profanity. They pointed to high ideals — "democracy," "opportunity," "liberty" — and dire assessments — "greedy," "racist," and "doomed." Some screamed in all capital letters: "UNITED" and "TERRIFIED." Others used punctuation for added effect — "disaster!!" and "great!"

Jack Blanton of Lexington, Kentucky, thought of his 81 years in weighing his answer. He grew up in a rural town in the Appalachian foothills, working on his grandparents' tobacco farm and later in a steel mill. He moved around the country and saw the world, earned a Ph.D., and rose to become a university vice president.

He wondered what other country could give a farm boy such a life, and concluded America's best days are ahead. He decided on "great."

"Who wouldn't be optimistic?" he asked. "My whole life has been blessed."

Pick Six: Pivotal players in the Atlantic Coast Conference

RALPH D. RUSSO, AP College Football Writer

The Atlantic Coast Conference is home to maybe the best and most important player in college football this season.

Clemson quarterback Deshaun Watson is the favorite to win the Heisman Trophy and the leader of a

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team with hopes of getting back to the College Football Playoff — and finishing the job this time around.

Florida State running back Dalvin Cook could also make a run at the Heisman Trophy. Louisville quarterback Lamar Jackson and Miami quarterback Brad Kaaya might get into the Heisman mix as well, and North Carolina running back Elijah Hood is maybe the most unheralded member of the great class of junior ball carriers around the country.

The ACC has no shortage of potential All-Americans and award winners, but these six players could play pivotal roles for their teams this season.

DeAngelo Brown, NT, Louisville

The Cardinals' defense looks loaded, despite losing its best player, defensive lineman Sheldon Rankins, to the NFL. Brown is a powerful nose tackle that Louisville will need to clog up the middle and stay on the field to let the Cardinals' athletes make plays.

Shaq Quarterman, LB, Miami

The Hurricanes' run defense was abysmal last season. There is hope among fans of the U. that new defensive coordinator Manny Diaz and his 4-3 defense will fix much of the mess they blame on former coordinator Mark D'Onofrio. There is also much optimism about Quarterman, an early enrolling freshman who has already locked up the middle linebacker job.

Travis Rudolph, WR, Florida State

The Seminoles quarterback competition between Sean Maguire and Deondre Francois will be the main event of fall practice. Improved play by Florida State's receivers will also be needed this season, especially from Rudolph. He led the team with 56 catches for 916 yards, but too often the junior had little impact on games in 2015.

Jaylen Samuels, TE, North Carolina State

It's hard to pin a position on the 223-pound junior. Tight end. Fullback. Maybe H-back? Whatever you want to call him, new Wolfpack offensive coordinator Eli Drinkwitz would be wise to get the ball to Samuels more often. He scored 16 touchdowns on 121 combined carries and catches last season.

Thomas Sirk, QB, Duke

Sirk is recovering from a torn Achilles tendon in his left leg and remarkably is aiming to be ready to start fall practice with his teammates on Aug. 8. Sirk was Duke's leading rusher (803 yards and eight touchdowns) on top of his 2,625 yards passing last season. Backup Parker Boehme is a similar player with promising upside, but having Sirk healthy would huge for the Blue Devils.

Christian Wilkins, DT, Clemson

The 315-pounder gained some fame by catching a pass off a fake punt in the Tigers' playoff victory against Oklahoma. Fun stuff, but Wilkins' work up front as a freshman was even more praise-worthy. With Clemson sending two defensive ends to the NFL, Wilkins will be expected to fill a bigger role this season. He has a chance to develop into the best defensive lineman in the country.

Extra point

Six more pivotal players: Patrick Towles, QB, Boston College; Brisly Estime, WR, Syracuse; Andre Smith, LB, North Carolina; Bucky Hodges, TE, Virginia Tech; Dontez Ford, WR, Pitt; KeShun Freeman, DE, Georgia Tech.

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DIVIDED AMERICA: Even in fractured land, there's much unity

MATT SEDENSKY, AP National Writer

SOUTH BOSTON, Va. (AP) — Outside the Annin Flagmakers factory in this perennial swing state, a summer of discontent is brewing. They feel the country's divides inside, too — gulfs between rich and

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poor, left and right, this side and that side, that seem to grow deeper with each passing week.

Yet as their hands glide over broad red and white stripes and sew bright stars to blue rectangles, crafting the most unifying American symbol, the flagmakers sound far more alike than different.

Asked to name life's most important elements, the same answers come back: family, work and faith. Presented with the idea of living in a foreign land, they uniformly say no, America can't be beat. Nudged to sum up the values Americans broadly share, they point to their handiwork and what it stands for — freedom, opportunity and pride.

EDITOR'S NOTE — This story is part of Divided America, AP's ongoing exploration of the economic, social and political divisions in American society.

"We may be divided on some things, but when it comes down to the most important things we come together," said Emily Bouldin, a 66-year-old seated before a jabbering sewing machine on an Annin production floor awash in red, white and blue. "Because we realize, together we stand, divided we fall."

The splintering that is bared in the overheated rhetoric of a presidential campaign only tells so much. Survey data, the work of academics studying the national ethos and conversations with individuals across the country make clear another truth: Americans are remarkably united, too.

You see it in the banality of routine, in morning drives to work and evenings before the glow of a TV; in lines to buy Powerball tickets and in proud parents amassed on Little League diamonds. You see it along parade routes, in blood donation lines after tragedies, and in the quiet prayers of the faithful. You see it in the flag.

"The United States is the freest and the best country on this earth and that flag represents that," said Ed Haney, a 69-year-old maintenance mechanic at the Annin plant. "The country was founded by men of different opinions who united on one thing: The freedom to have those opinions."

Haney and Bouldin work on opposite ends of the sprawling sewing room floor, and political pollsters would see them in different worlds altogether. Haney is white and male, tends to side with Republicans and expects to give his vote to Donald Trump in the fall. Bouldin is black and female, always votes Democratic and plans to cast her ballot for Hillary Clinton. Yet they both speak of their Christian faith, the importance of family, their love of America and what the flag represents.

"It really is the land of the free," Bouldin said.

American agreement is harder to gauge than division, observes Tom Smith, director of an eminent yardstick of public opinion, the General Social Survey at the University of Chicago. "By their very nature, surveys don't go out and ask people about things that there's near unanimity about," he says, "because that's rarely interesting." Still, he notes data captures glimpses of consensus on a range of topics across the U.S. as well as points of national pride and clues on the ways Americans think and live.

Surveys find nearly all Americans believe in helping the less fortunate, in entrepreneurship and small business, and in public schools.

On foreign affairs, they hold resoundingly favorable views of Canada, Great Britain, France, Germany and Japan, and unfavorable ones of North Korea, Iran, Iraq and Afghanistan. Overwhelmingly, they see the Islamic State group as a major threat.

Most Americans expect the U.S. to fight in another war in the coming years.

Domestically, there's near unanimity that veterans should be better cared for, and that more research into renewable energy should be supported. Medicare and Social Security are wildly popular across age groups. The federal budget should be balanced, a big majority agrees.

Patrick Miller, a political science professor at the University of Kansas who studies partisanship and

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polling, said Americans unite around national pride, symbols such as the flag and pop culture. And though the public is moving closer to mirroring the fierce polarization of politicians, he said, people remain close on many issues.

"The average Democrat and the average Republican are not that far apart from each other," Miller said.

To those who insist today marks the country's most divided time, political scientist David O'Connell says look to history: Early political rivalries were sometimes resolved with duels. The United States was disunited by years of Civil War. Andrew Jackson openly spoke of hanging his vice president.

It's true that political party differences have sharpened lately — conservative Democrats and liberal Republicans are near extinction, and many legislators don't dare work across the aisle — but average Americans aren't nearly as divided as their lawmakers.

"The people attending the Democratic and Republican conventions this summer do have more extreme opinions than in the past," said O'Connell, a political science professor at Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. "But the public? The public remains moderate and open to compromise."

Even on topics considered among the most contentious, unity can sometimes be found.

The gun debate may polarize Capitol Hill and statehouses, but there is wide consensus among Americans on mandating background checks for gun shows and private sales (85 percent agree, according to a Pew Research Center poll), and on keeping weapons from the mentally ill (79 percent agree).

Though abortion remains acrimonious, comparatively few people call for totally legalizing or outlawing it in every case, with the majority of people somewhere in the middle. (Only 24 percent of Americans believe in blanket legalization, according to Pew, and 16 percent are for an outright ban.)

And though immigration remains a flashpoint, including the idea of building a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border, most Americans believe undocumented immigrants should be able to remain in the country if they meet certain conditions. (Another Pew poll found 74 percent of Americans held that view.)

A sense of American unity also begins to emerge when comparing the U.S. with other countries, especially in the developed world. Public opinion polls show Americans, far more than those elsewhere, believe hard work is very important to get ahead in life and that individuals have control over their success in life . Americans also express a sense of hope and optimism that's rare among wealthy countries: They are far more likely, according to Pew, to describe their day as a particularly good one.

Strikingly, Americans stand out among rich countries for their widespread belief in God, the importance of religion in their lives and the regularity in which they practice their faith. Some 89 percent of Americans express some level of belief in God , according to Pew.

It is not just the weightier facets of life that unify the nation.

Americans love to eat out so much that spending on restaurants and bars — an estimated \$54 billion in June , according to the U.S. Department of Commerce — has eclipsed that in grocery stores. Wherever they dine, they love red meat and ice cream and cheese, USDA data shows .

They love shopping. They spend more than five hours a week in stores, according to the American Time Use Survey .

And they love dogs. An Associated Press survey reaching that unsurprising conclusion also noted cats get far more mixed reviews.

Sports bring Americans together, even though team rivalries thrive. Chants of "USA" resound as Olympians compete. The Super Bowl is so popular it has become a de facto national holiday, with more than one-third of the country tuning in to the game. Countless hours are spent fielding fantasy teams or filling in office March Madness brackets.

Many of these everyday markers of consensus were on display on a sun-drenched July day on the

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National Mall in Washington, where people jogged in team T-shirts, walked their dogs or grabbed lunch at a food truck — all on a stretch showcasing grand-scale symbols of American unity.

Darlene and Tom Stetson rested between two of the Lincoln Memorial's towering pillars and pondered the question of what unifies the country.

"Sports" was the first thought of Darlene Stetson, a 62-year-old third-grade teacher. Diverse communities come together to cheer their common team.

Her husband, a 61-year-old who works in finance, offered, "Family, school and work."

The couple, who had traveled from their home in Louisville, Kentucky, acknowledged America's problems and divisions.

But, he said, "I still think this is the greatest country."

She agreed: "Whenever I've been out of the country, I can't wait to come home."

Such feelings are pervasive. A new poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research found a large majority of Americans regard the U.S. as one of the greatest countries, even as that survey also affirmed deep splits on politics today.

Americans even find agreement on their weaknesses. Surveys show most lack much confidence in Congress or the overall political system, most doubt Clinton or Trump will unify the country, and more than eight in 10 people believe the country is more divided than in the past.

In the AP-NORC poll, when asked to describe the U.S. in one word, respondents' answers diverged sharply: Though "freedom" and "great" were the most-uttered responses, words like "struggling," "declining" and their synonyms, taken together, made up the greatest fraction of answers.

One poll respondent, Alleen Anderson, an 89-year-old retired cattle rancher in Red Oak, Texas, described the country as awesome, said she believed the nation's best days are ahead and that the U.S. will be less divided in the future.

"I still believe that people will look at one another, find the good parts of each other and the country will be better," said Anderson, who expects to vote for Trump.

Nearly a thousand miles away, on the edge of Lake Michigan, 25-year-old Qymana Botts comes from a different generation and a different mindset than Anderson. She lives in Gary, Indiana, is working on a master's degree in education and describes herself as a liberal who will vote for Dr. Jill Stein if the Green Party candidate makes it on her state's ballot. In one word, she describes America as frustrating, but she doesn't see it as more divided than the past and believes its best days are ahead.

Botts sees most Americans' desires as the same: stability for their families and to have a good job. She thinks people are more inclusive toward those of different backgrounds than they once were and more aware of different viewpoints. America is still great, she said, and she wouldn't want to live anywhere else.

"We actually, as a society, agree on the most important stuff," Botts said.

That unity is embodied in the flag. American children start their school days, hand to heart, in a pledge to the flag, and it becomes as much a fixture in their lives as in their history books. It was raised on Iwo Jima and has been draped over Olympians, launched into space and planted at the North Pole. After 9/11, it was flown atop the wreckage of the World Trade Center, pinned to lapels and added to front porches from sea to sea.

Anin Flagmakers has seen the ebbs and flows of American patriotism. It opened in 1847 and saw its first sales spike after the Civil War inspired unity across the North. Demand boomed again with World Wars I and II. During the Vietnam War, when fervent opposition led some to burn flags in protest, business was lean, but bicentennial celebrations in 1976 brought a new surge of orders. After 9/11, business was 20 times the norm.

It's just past Independence Day at the company's cavernous factory near the Virginia-North Carolina

line. It is thick with the smell of dye and glue and the din of jackhammering needles. There is a boom in business now, too, and the plant added a third shift to accommodate demand.

The company isn't entirely sure what's driving the orders. Maybe it's the heated presidential election or the drumbeat of tragedies. Buddy Wilborn, a 59-year-old taking a break from repairing sewing machines, isn't so sure either. But he sees some signs American unity is reemerging.

When there are trying times, whether terrorism or natural disaster or a hardball political season that drives wedges between people, he sees the flag's resonance grow. He's not so sure who he'll vote for come November, but he sees hope.

"I think our country is starting to come back together," he said.

Sedensky can be reached at msedensky@ap.org or <https://twitter.com/sedensky>

David Sterrett, a researcher at The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research, contributed to this report.

3 Indonesian volcanoes erupt, disrupting some flights

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — Eruptions at three volcanoes in Indonesia have darkened skies in parts of the archipelago and disrupted some flights.

Mount Rinjani on Lombok Island near Bali, the Sinabung volcano on Sumatra Island and Mount Gamalama in the Moluccas chain of islands have all erupted in the past couple of days.

No one has been injured, but flights at two airports have been disrupted.

Sultan Babullah airport in Ternate, the capital of North Maluku province, was closed Wednesday and Lombok's international airport was closed for several hours on Tuesday.

The three mountains are among about 130 active volcanoes in Indonesia. The archipelago of 250 million people is prone to earthquakes and volcanoes because it sits along the Pacific "Ring of Fire," a string of faults that lines the Pacific Ocean.

Sutopo Purwo Nugroho, the spokesman for Indonesia's Disaster Mitigation Agency, said that Gamalama and Sinabung erupted again late Tuesday, blasting debris high into the air. Hot ash tumbled down the Sinabung slopes as far as 2,000 meters (yards) southward into a river.

Nugroho said that farms and trees around the three volcanoes were covered in gray ash, but nearby towns and villages were not in danger.

More than 13,000 people have been evacuated due to volcanic eruptions since last year, mostly from around the slopes of Sinabung.

NYC's next top cop touts strategy to repair rift with public

TOM HAYS

JENNIFER PELTZ

NEW YORK (AP) — The career cop picked to lead America's largest police department is embracing a throwback strategy to repair the deep rift that has opened between officers and the public. He wants patrol officers to get to know people on their beat on a first-name basis.

James "Jimmy" O'Neill was introduced Tuesday at City Hall as the next commissioner of the New York Police Department.

When he takes over next month, O'Neill will inherit challenges that vexed his well-known predecessor, William Bratton, who announced that he is quitting to take a job with a corporate consulting firm.

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Crime statistics in the city have never been better, but officer morale is an issue as is the level of distrust between officers and minorities, especially black New Yorkers.

In announcing O'Neill's selection, Democratic Mayor Bill de Blasio said he would be tasked with expanding a "neighborhood policing plan" the department first unveiled last year amid tensions stirred by the police chokehold death of Eric Garner and the subsequent ambush slaying of two NYPD officers by a suicidal gunman out for revenge.

O'Neill, who has been with the NYPD for his entire career, said the program draws on some of the same lessons he learned in 1983 when he was a rookie transit officer patrolling a subway system ravaged by crime. Good cops, he said, learn "how to talk to every type of person imaginable."

It calls for officers to spend more time out of their patrol cars introducing themselves to shop owners and community members so they can collaborate on making the city safer. As part of the outreach, specialized "neighborhood coordinating officers" even pass out their cellphone numbers.

"Knowing who your police officers are, especially what their names are," he said, "is one way to strengthen the bonds that exist in many places and bridge the divide where it doesn't."

New York has tried various iterations of that idea over the decades.

Under former Democratic Mayor David Dinkins, the department put more cops on foot patrols, asked beat officers to focus on long-term solutions rather than quick-fix arrests and recruited tenants as informants against drug dealers in their buildings in the early 1990s.

While the program earned praise in then-President Bill Clinton's 1994 State of the Union address, internal police memos emerged portraying it as lax and ineffective.

Bratton, in his first tour as police commissioner under Republican Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, shifted the department's focus toward cracking down on "quality-of-life" crime as part of a theory that aggressively going after urban annoyances like vandalism and subway fare evasion would reverse a societal decline.

De Blasio, who worked in Dinkins' administration, said Tuesday the new "neighborhood policing" will be more full-fledged and deliver on "a strategy we have never fully achieved."

Some civil liberties activists and others cautioned on Tuesday that the new emphasis on neighborhood policing is little more than repackaging a limited concept.

"Having more officers in the neighborhood and having people know each others' names has nothing to do with whether people are going to be held accountable for brutality," said Joo-Hyun Kang, the director of Communities United for Police Reform, a group that advocates for changing police practices.

And in a tough world, friendliness only goes so far.

Officers can be trained to bring "softer skills" to resolving problems, but "they're not social workers, they're not camp counselors — they're law enforcement," Eugene O'Donnell, a professor of police studies at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, said Tuesday.

"You can be nice to people, but you can't be nice to everybody," he said.

In Harlem on Tuesday, black residents said they liked the idea, but expressed skepticism.

"I don't think he's gonna do any better," said Wayne Newton, a 51-year-old barber from the Bronx. He recounted how his 18-year-old son was recently stopped and questioned by police for playing "Pokemon Go" in a Bronx park.

Neter Rhoden, 14, said he would appreciate a friendly "hello," from a police officer now and again, but is still upset about a time an officer held his arm behind his back while questioning him in the street.

"They could be nicer," he said.

By all accounts, O'Neill is diving in headfirst, giving out his personal cellphone number to advocates who work with at-risk New Yorkers in rough city neighborhoods.

Bratton, 68, will be winding down a law enforcement career that had stops as chief in Boston and Los Angeles, as well as two stints as commissioner in New York.

He brought a prominence and political savvy to the nation's largest police department that equipped him to deal with outsized expectations. His brash style — which doomed his first stint as commissioner under then-Mayor Rudy Giuliani — went unabated under de Blasio, as evidenced Tuesday in his description of de Blasio's reaction when he invited the mayor into his office and broke the news that he was leaving the NYPD.

"After I picked him up off the floor and got him on my couch," he quipped, "we had a two-hour conversation about where I was going and why."

By comparison, O'Neill is admired within the department, but unknown on the national stage.

The Latest: Pence avoids discussion of GOP tensions

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Latest on the U.S. presidential campaign. (all times EDT):

12:20 a.m.

Republican vice presidential nominee Mike Pence isn't addressing GOP tensions after running mate Donald Trump refused to endorse House Speaker Paul Ryan or Arizona Sen. John McCain.

Pence spoke at a town hall event Tuesday night in Phoenix then took some questions from the few hundred people in attendance but didn't mention the endorsement snub.

An Associated Press reporter later asked Pence if he would endorse McCain or Ryan while the candidate was signing autographs and posing for selfies with supporters. The Indiana governor appeared to ignore the question and kept on moving down the line.

Trump told The Washington Post earlier Tuesday that he's "just not quite there yet" when asked about an endorsement of Ryan, who faces a primary election next week. In that interview, Trump also declined to support McCain's re-election.

11:15 p.m.

Top Republican donor and fundraiser Meg Whitman is endorsing Democrat Hillary Clinton for president, saying she cannot support a candidate who has "exploited anger, grievance, xenophobia and racial division."

The Hewlett-Packard executive says in a statement Tuesday night that Republican nominee Donald Trump's "demagoguery has undermined the fabric of our national character."

Whitman says Trump's "reckless and uninformed" positions on critical issues from immigration to the economy and foreign policy show he lacks the policy depth and judgment a president needs.

She says national security would be in danger under a Trump presidency and she encourages all Republicans to support Clinton in November.

The former eBay chief executive ran unsuccessfully for California governor in 2010, spending \$144 million of her own money in a \$178 million losing battle against Democrat Jerry Brown.

9 p.m.

Democratic vice presidential candidate Tim Kaine made a quick dinner stop Tuesday night in a key Florida county, where local party leaders promised him a wide victory margin in November.

The Virginia senator stopped at Betty's Soul Food Restaurant in Fort Lauderdale, where state Sen. Chris Smith and other party leaders promised that Hillary Clinton will carry Broward County by 250,000 votes.

Broward is Florida's most Democratic county, and Clinton needs a large margin there to counteract Donald Trump's likely advantage in rural and northern parts of the state that are heavily Republican.

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Kaine ordered Buffalo wings, fried shrimp and lemonade.

8 p.m.

Indiana Gov. Mike Pence criticized comments President Barack Obama made Tuesday about Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump's lack of judgment, saying Obama himself knows a lot about being "woefully unprepared."

Pence spoke before several hundred people at a town hall in Tucson, Arizona, and was scheduled to appear in Phoenix later Tuesday.

Trump's running mate spent much of his speech railing against Obama policies.

Obama said Tuesday that Trump was unfit to be president and challenged Republicans to disavow their support for him.

Pence criticized Obama's policies in Iraq, saying they led to the growth of the Islamic State group.

7:45 p.m.

Donald Trump is reiterating his concerns that the November election will be "rigged" against him, speculating that people without proper identification "are going to vote 10 times."

Trump is discussing voter ID during an interview Tuesday on Fox News Channel's "The O'Reilly Factor."

The Republican presidential nominee says, "You don't have to have voter ID to now go in and vote and it's a little bit scary."

Over the last two weeks, courts have dealt setbacks to voter ID laws in several states. Critics of photo ID requirements say they fall disproportionately on minority voters and the poor.

Trump says without voter ID, "people are going to walk in, they are going to vote 10 times maybe. Who knows?"

6:10 p.m.

Donald Trump may be withholding his endorsement from House Speaker Paul Ryan, but Ryan says he never sought it in the first place.

The Wisconsin Republican's spokesman, Zack Roday said neither Ryan nor anyone associated with his re-election ever asked for Trump's backing.

Roday added that the Ryan team was "confident in a victory next week regardless."

Ryan faces a challenge from longshot candidate Paul Nehlen (KNEE-lin) in the Aug. 9 primary.

Trump, in an interview with The Washington Post, refused to support Ryan and longtime Sen. John McCain in their upcoming Republican primaries.

Trump said he is "not quite there yet" in backing Ryan, echoing the words the Wisconsin Republican used several months ago in withholding his endorsement of Trump before relenting weeks later with tepid support.

4:54 p.m.

Donald Trump is refusing to support House Speaker Paul Ryan and longtime Sen. John McCain in their upcoming Republican primaries.

In an interview with The Washington Post, Trump said he is "not quite there yet" in backing Ryan, echoing the words the Wisconsin Republican used several months ago in withholding his endorsement of Trump before relenting weeks later with tepid support.

Ryan's primary is Aug. 9.

Trump also declined to back McCain, a prisoner of war in Vietnam who was critical of Trump's criticism

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of a Muslim American parents whose son was killed in Iraq. Trump criticized New Hampshire Sen. Kelly Ayotte, who also admonished Trump for his comments.

Trump's refusal to back the incumbents is a breach of political decorum that comes just two weeks after a convention designed to showcase party unity.

4:47 p.m.

Arkansas Sen. Tom Cotton says Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump should apologize for criticizing the parents of an American soldier killed in Iraq.

In a tribute to his son at the Democratic National Convention last week, Khizr Khan said Trump had sacrificed nothing. Trump said he was "viciously attacked" and questioned why Khan's wife stood silently during her husband's speech.

After speaking to the Political Animals group in Little Rock, Cotton said Tuesday that Trump should "express his regret and apologize," then build his campaign around making Americans safer and more prosperous.

The Republican freshman senator is a member of the Senate Intelligence Committee. He told the group that failures in the intelligence community become well-known, but that its successes must remain a national secret.

4:35 p.m.

Democratic vice presidential candidate Tim Kaine is back in Florida, taking the Clinton campaign's job-creation promises to the important battleground state.

Kaine was speaking Tuesday in Daytona Beach, his second appearance in central Florida in 10 days. The campaigns of both Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump have been targeting Florida, which Barack Obama won in 2008 and 2012.

Kaine talked about shared prosperity between business owners and workers.

"As businesses succeed, it's not just the CEO taking it all himself. It sharing," Kaine said.

3:05 p.m.

Two more Democratic Party officials have resigned in the wake of an embarrassing email hack.

Chief finance officer Brad Marshall and communications director Luis Miranda left their jobs on Tuesday, the Democratic National Committee says.

Earlier Tuesday, The Associated Press reported that DNC chief executive Amy Dacey had resigned. Dacey has been hired to work for a Democratic communications firm, AP reported.

It's the latest fallout from the hacked emails, which exposed an apparent lack of neutrality in the primary race between Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders, with some party officials disparaging Sanders.

2:45 p.m.

One of Donald Trump's top allies — New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie — says that it's inappropriate to criticize the parents of an American soldier killed in Iraq.

Trump, the Republican presidential nominee, has been engaged in an emotionally charged feud with Khizr and Ghazala Khan, whose son, Capt. Humayun Khan, was killed by a suicide bomber in Iraq.

Khizr Khan, who is Muslim, gave a tribute to his son last week at the Democratic National Convention that was heavily critical of Trump.

Christie said Tuesday that the pain of losing their son gives the Khans the right to say whatever they want.

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Responding to comments from President Barack Obama that Trump isn't qualified to be president, Christie says Obama has disqualified himself from giving comments like that because he says Hillary Clinton is the most qualified person in American history to be president.

Christie is the head of Trump's transition team.

2:30 p.m.

Former President Bill Clinton is paying tribute to a longtime friend who died last week.

Bill and Hillary Clinton attended the service for Mark Weiner (WEY'-ner) Tuesday at the Temple Beth-El synagogue in Providence, Rhode Island. Weiner was a major Democratic donor and fundraiser.

In the eulogy, Bill Clinton said Weiner was fiercely competitive in business and politics and would do anything for his friends, as well as for complete strangers. Clinton remembered Weiner as "forever young."

Weiner died in Newport after a long battle with cancer. He was 62.

The Clintons departed with the family. Hillary Clinton appeared upset and nodded to people as she left.

Weiner has been friends with the Clintons since 1976, when he worked with Hillary Clinton on Jimmy Carter's presidential campaign.

1:35 p.m.

Donald Trump is reacting to comments by Barack Obama that he is unfit to lead the country, accusing the president of "failed leadership."

Trump issued a statement Tuesday with a barrage of attacks against Obama and Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton, saying they have "single-handedly" destabilized the Middle East, handed Iraq, Libya and Syria to ISIS."

He accused the pair of putting Iran "on the path to nuclear weapons" and said they have allowed "dozens of veterans to die" and "repeatedly admitted migrants later implicated in terrorism."

Trump also accused Obama and Clinton of sending America's "best jobs overseas to appease their global interests."

The Republican nominee concluded his statement saying: "we need change now."

1:05 p.m.

Donald Trump says the Arab Gulf states wouldn't exist without U.S. help. But the U.S. relies on Gulf states too.

Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates, all Arab Gulf nations, are part of the U.S.-led coalition against the Islamic State group in Syria, conducting airstrikes and providing other support.

Trump told supporters in Ashburn, Virginia Tuesday that if he is elected president, he would require the Arab Gulf states to finance a safe zone in Syria. "They are going to pay," Trump told the crowd.

The Arab gulf states, which make up a cooperative body called the Gulf Cooperation Council, are home to 20 percent of the world's oil supply.

12:55 p.m.

The chief executive of the Democratic National Committee has resigned in the wake of an email hack that embarrassed the party on the eve of its convention.

That's according to three Democratic strategists familiar with Amy Dacey's decision to leave her job. The people spoke on condition of anonymity, because they were not authorized to discuss it publicly.

The Democrats say other personnel moves at the party are also expected Tuesday.

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The content of the hacked emails exposed an apparent lack of neutrality in the primary race between Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders, with party officials disparaging Sanders.

Party chairwoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz resigned her position before the convention began. After being booed at a later appearance in Philadelphia, she chose not to speak from the convention stage.

—By Julie Pace and Julie Bykowicz

12:50 p.m.

Hillary Clinton has arrived with her husband in Rhode Island to attend the funeral of a longtime friend. Former President Bill Clinton will give the eulogy on Tuesday for Mark Weiner, a major Democratic donor and fundraiser.

The service for Weiner (WEY'-ner) is being held at the Temple Beth-El synagogue in Providence.

Weiner died last week in Newport after a long battle with cancer. He was 62.

The Democratic presidential nominee walked to the front of the synagogue shortly after noon, holding her husband's arm.

Attendees also include the Rev. Jesse Jackson, Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe and veteran political consultants James Carville, Paul Begala and Tad Devine.

Weiner has been friends with the Clintons since 1976, when he worked with Hillary Clinton on Jimmy Carter's presidential campaign.

12:20 p.m.

Donald Trump is joking that he wants a crying baby ejected from his rally in northern Virginia.

Trump, the Republican nominee, was interrupted Tuesday by the wails of a child.

"Don't worry about that baby, I love babies," Trump said. "I hear that baby crying, I like it. What a beautiful baby."

But when the baby continued to cry, Trump followed up by saying "Actually, I was just get kidding — you can get that baby out of here!"

Trump then seemed to suggest that he was joking and that the baby could stay. The child soon stopped crying.

12:15 p.m.

About a dozen protesters have been escorted out of Donald Trump's rally in northern Virginia.

The group started chanting "Hillary" in support of Trump's general election opponent Hillary Clinton during the Republican nominee's rally in Ashburn.

One protester was wearing a shirt reading "Islam means peace." Many of them raised fists when they were escorted out.

Trump did not acknowledge them as they were removed. Several other attendees were escorted out before the event started.

12:10 p.m.

Donald Trump says that without the U.S., "the Gulf states won't exist."

Speaking to supporters in Ashburn, Virginia, Tuesday, Trump said that if he is elected president, he would require the Arab Gulf states to finance a safe zone in Syria. "They are going to pay," Trump told the crowd.

The Arab gulf states, which make up a cooperative body called the Gulf Cooperation Council, are

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home to 20 percent of the world's oil supply.

Trump also reiterated his stance that the U.S. "can't have people coming in from Syria who have bad intentions."

12:05 p.m.

Donald Trump claims that 20 people have given Hillary Clinton a total of \$60 million and he would like to know who those people are.

Speaking at a rally in Ashburn, Virginia., Tuesday, Trump said he wants to "find out how many of them I know," referring to Clinton's top donors. Trump did not specify a time frame in which Clinton allegedly raised that money.

Clinton's campaign said the Democratic nominee raised \$63 million in July for her campaign.

Trump continued his attack on the Democratic nominee, calling her "Crooked Hillary," which prompted chants of "lock her up" from the crowd.

11:55 a.m.

Donald Trump is saluting a veteran who presented the Republican presidential nominee with his Purple Heart.

Trump said the man approached him before a Tuesday rally in Ashburn, Virginia, and presented him the medal he received for being wounded in combat.

Trump said he was "honored" to receive it. He then joked that "I always wanted to get a Purple Heart. This was much easier"

His comments came amid his ongoing flap with the parents of a Muslim-American soldier who was killed in Iraq. Trump never served in the military, receiving medical and education deferments during the Vietnam War era.

11:45 a.m.

President Barack Obama says that Donald Trump is unfit to be president and "he keeps proving it."

Obama was speaking during a news conference with the prime minister of Singapore, who is visiting the White House.

The president is challenging Republican leaders to withdraw their endorsements of Trump.

Obama says Trump's criticism of a fallen Muslim-American soldier's family is the latest evidence that the GOP presidential nominee is unfit to lead America.

11:40 a.m.

President Barack Obama is challenging leading Republicans to repudiate Donald Trump.

Obama says Trump's criticism of a fallen Muslim-American soldier's family is the latest evidence that the GOP presidential nominee is unfit to lead America.

Obama is also citing Trump's misstatements on global crises.

At a news conference Tuesday, Obama noted that many leading Republicans in Congress have denounced various Trump statements.

But he asked why they are still endorsing him. Obama said there has to be a point when people break with the party's standard-bearer. Otherwise, he said, the denunciations are hollow.

Bus crash survivor violently tossed awake to horrific scene

SCOTT SMITH, Associated Press

CHRISTOPHER WEBER, Associated Press

ATWATER, Calif. (AP) — Leonardo Sanchez was sleeping peacefully on a bus carrying him to Oregon to pick blueberries when he was suddenly thrown face-first into the back of the seat in front of him, awakening him to a horrific scene of chaos and death.

The bus carrying Sanchez and about 30 others on a pre-dawn journey through California's agriculturally rich San Joaquin Valley had somehow plowed head-on into a highway pole that nearly sliced it in half. Five people died and at least 18 were hurt.

"There was lots of screaming and crying," Sanchez told The Associated Press hours after Tuesday's crash. He said only about eight people, including himself, escaped the bus largely unscathed.

"The rest of them, the police and ambulances arrived to get them out. And the dead," he added solemnly in Spanish.

Merced County Sheriff Vern Warnke said rescuers pulled "bags of body parts" from the bus along with survivors, adding that some people suffered severed limbs. Other victims were thrown from the vehicle and landed in a ditch.

Of the 18 injured, three were initially in critical condition but they have since been upgraded to serious, officials said. Three more are in fair condition and the rest have injuries ranging from minor to moderate.

The bus, operated by Autobuses Coordinados USA, was heading to Washington state on State Route 99. It was approaching Livingston, a farming and industrial town of about 13,000, where it had been scheduled to change drivers.

Apparently running late for its 1:30 a.m. driver switch, the bus veered off the highway shortly before 3:30 a.m.

A passenger headed from Mexico to her home in Pasco, Washington, said moments before the crash it appeared the driver was trying to pass another vehicle that he apparently expected to yield, but it wouldn't let him merge.

"It kind of ran him off the road," Nakia Coleman told Washington's Tri-City Herald newspaper (<http://bit.ly/2aPdtKd>).

California Highway Patrol Officer Moises Onsurez said the bus suddenly veered sharply off the highway, adding investigators are still attempting to determine why.

He said investigators have been unable to interview the 57-year-old driver, Mario David Vasquez of the Los Angeles area, because of the extent of his injuries.

The accident sliced the bus from front to back, with the vehicle coming to a stop when its first rear axle hit the pole. That was when Sanchez was violently tossed awake to discover a scene of chaos and carnage filled with the screams of trapped and injured people.

"We couldn't pull people out because there was shattered glass everywhere, seats destroyed," he said.

Lesser injured like himself climbed out on their own, fearful the bus might catch fire. The 55-year-old farmworker said he was left with pain in his stomach and a bruised jaw and mouth.

"It was too much. It was a very ugly accident. Thanks to God that I got out of there alive," he said.

The bus was traveling north up State Route 99, which cuts through the center of California farm country, and was only about a couple miles from its next stop when the crash occurred.

The still-intact sign it hit stuck out from the roof of the crumpled bus hours after the crash as crews prepared to move the vehicle. Wreckage and debris including seat cushions, drink containers, pillows

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and a blanket were scattered in lanes and on the highway's shoulder.

Some highway signs, like those for the speed limit, have support poles designed with points that break away during a crash. But the poles supporting the much larger overhead signs like the one the bus hit are designed to "stay put," said Vanessa Wiseman, a spokeswoman for the state Department of Transportation.

Calls to various telephone listings for the bus company went unanswered. Its counter at a Los Angeles depot was open, but nobody was present when an Associated Press reporter arrived midmorning. A sign in Spanish advertised daily 7:30 p.m. departures to destinations up the West Coast to Washington.

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration listed the carrier as having a "satisfactory" rating as of May 17. The bus was inspected in April and had three violations, including a lack of or a defective brake warning device. That violation was not further described, and there was no indication whether each of the items had been fixed.

Asian stocks slip as US fall fans angst over global growth

YURI KAGEYAMA, AP Business Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Asian markets slipped Wednesday after U.S. stocks took their biggest loss in almost a month, underscoring simmering worries about global economic growth.

KEEPING SCORE: Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 slipped 0.8 percent to 16,249.97 in morning trading. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 was dropped 1 percent to 5,485.40. South Korea's Kospi lost 0.8 percent at 2,002.94. Hong Kong's Hang Seng dipped 1.7 percent to 21,763.21, while the Shanghai Composite was little changed, inching up 0.1 percent to 2,973.80.

JAPAN WOES: Disappointment is already setting in over how the substance of Japan's 28 trillion yen (\$272 billion) economic stimulus package falls far short of the hype, given that much of the money is already in the pipeline. A strong yen is also deepening pessimism over prospects for Japan's recovery.

THE QUOTE: "The forex markets have been in risk-off mode over the past day, as concerns grow about Japan's woefully limited economic package and as oil prices plunge, stoking fears that global growth is stagnating," said Stephen Innes, senior trader at Oanda Asia Pacific.

WALL STREET: The Dow Jones industrial average fell 0.5 percent to 18,313.77. The Standard & Poor's 500 index lost 0.6 percent to 2,157.03 and the Nasdaq composite slid 0.9 percent to 5,137.73. The Dow has fallen for seven days in a row, and Tuesday was the worst day for U.S. stocks since July 5.

ENERGY: Oil prices regained some of their recent plunge. Benchmark U.S. crude was up 29 cents at \$39.80 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. It fell 55 cents on Wednesday to \$39.51 a barrel. Brent crude, used to price international oils, edged up 24 cents to \$42.04 a barrel in London.

CURRENCIES: The dollar fell to 101.23 yen from 102.60 yen late Tuesday in Asia, while the euro rose to \$1.1215 from \$1.1172.

Today in History

The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Wednesday, Aug. 3, the 216th day of 2016. There are 150 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Aug. 3, 1966, comedian Lenny Bruce, whose raunchy brand of satire and dark humor landed him

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in trouble with the law, was found dead in his Los Angeles home; he was 40.

On this date:

In 1492, Christopher Columbus set sail from Palos, Spain, on a voyage that took him to the present-day Americas.

In 1807, former Vice President Aaron Burr went on trial before a federal court in Richmond, Virginia, charged with treason. (He was acquitted less than a month later.)

In 1914, Germany declared war on France at the onset of World War I.

In 1916, Irish-born British diplomat Roger Casement, a strong advocate of independence for Ireland, was hanged for treason.

In 1921, baseball commissioner Kenesaw Mountain Landis refused to reinstate the former Chicago White Sox players implicated in the "Black Sox" scandal, despite their acquittals in a jury trial.

In 1936, Jesse Owens of the United States won the first of his four gold medals at the Berlin Olympics as he took the 100-meter sprint.

In 1943, Gen. George S. Patton slapped a private at an army hospital in Sicily, accusing him of cowardice. (Patton was later ordered by Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower to apologize for this and a second, similar episode.)

In 1949, the National Basketball Association was formed as a merger of the Basketball Association of America and the National Basketball League.

In 1958, the nuclear-powered submarine USS Nautilus became the first vessel to cross the North Pole underwater.

In 1972, the U.S. Senate ratified the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty between the United States and the Soviet Union. (The U.S. unilaterally withdrew from the treaty in 2002.)

In 1981, U.S. air traffic controllers went on strike, despite a warning from President Ronald Reagan they would be fired, which they were.

In 1994, Arkansas carried out the nation's first triple execution in 32 years. Stephen G. Breyer was sworn in as the Supreme Court's newest justice in a private ceremony at Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist's Vermont summer home.

Ten years ago: In Afghanistan, 21 civilians were killed in a suicide car bombing near Canadian military vehicles in a town market in Kandahar province; U.S. forces killed 25 Taliban in a raid in Helmand province. Elisabeth Schwarzkopf, a soprano who'd won global acclaim for her renditions of Mozart and Strauss, died in Schruns, Austria, at age 90.

Five years ago: Former Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak denied all charges against him as he went on trial for alleged corruption and complicity in the deaths of protesters who'd helped drive him from power. (Mubarak is currently being retried for the killings of protesters; he and his sons were convicted of graft and have already served their sentences for that crime.) The Muscular Dystrophy Association announced that Jerry Lewis was no longer its national chairman and would not be appearing on the Labor Day telethon. Death claimed former NFL star and actor Bubba Smith, 66, and actress Annette Charles, 63, best known for her role as Cha Cha DeGregorio in "Grease."

One year ago: Seeking to clamp down on power plant emissions, President Barack Obama unveiled a federal plan that would attempt to slow global warming by dramatically shifting the way Americans get and use electricity; opponents denounced the proposal as egregious federal overreach that would send power prices surging, and vowed lawsuits and legislation to try to stop it.

Today's Birthdays: Football Hall of Fame coach Marv Levy is 91. Singer Tony Bennett is 90. Actor Martin Sheen is 76. College and Pro Football Hall of Famer Lance Alworth is 76. Lifestyle guru Martha Stewart is 75. Singer Beverly Lee (The Shirelles) is 75. Rock musician B.B. Dickerson is 67. Movie direc-

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tor John Landis is 66. Actress JoMarie Payton is 66. Actor Jay North (TV: "Dennis the Menace") is 65. Hockey Hall-of-Famer Marcel Dionne is 65. Country musician Randy Scruggs is 63. Actor Philip Casnoff is 62. Actor John C. McGinley is 57. Rock singer-musician Lee Rocker (The Stray Cats) is 55. Actress Lisa Ann Walter is 55. Rock singer James Hetfield (Metallica) is 53. Rock singer-musician Ed Roland (Collective Soul) is 53. Actor Isaiah Washington is 53. Country musician Dean Sams (Lonestar) is 50. Rock musician Stephen Carpenter (Deftones) is 46. Hip-hop artist Spinderella (Salt-N-Pepa) is 45. Actress Brigid Brannagh is 44. Actor Michael Ealy is 43. Country musician Jimmy De Martini (Zac Brown Band) is 40. NFL quarterback Tom Brady is 39. Actress Evangeline (ee-VAN'-gel-eeen) Lilly is 37. Actress Mamie Gummer is 33. Country singer Whitney Duncan is 32. Actor Jon Foster is 32. Actress Georgina Haig is 31. Singer Holly Arnstein (Dream) is 31. Actress Tanya Fischer is 31. Pop-rock musician Brent Kutzle (OneRepublic) is 31.

Thought for Today: "Let me tell you the truth. The truth is what is, and what should be is a fantasy. A terrible, terrible lie that someone gave to the people long ago." — Lenny Bruce (1925-1966).