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Flea Market

Flea Market for 12 days, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., Aug. 26-Sept. 7. Vintage, Crocks, Fishing, Jewelry, Cream Cans, Marbles, Buttons, Lanterns, Oil Lamps, Yard Ornaments, Bookcases, Antiques, and Much More. 201 Hwy 25, across from Community Oil Co., Roslyn. New items added daily. 5 (10'x20') Canopys full!

Bus Driver Wanted

The Groton Area School District has openings for a part time (morning) bus route and for a full-time bus route driver. Assistance in obtaining the proper licensure is available. Please contact Transportation Supervisor, Loren Bahr, at 397-8117 for more details.

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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Wednesday, Aug. 17

National Thriftshop Day

Senior Menu: Scalloped potatoes with ham, peas, sunset salad, oatmeal raisin cookie, whole wheat bread.

Birthdays: • Raevin Wall-Larson • Carla Kittelson • Lisa Harry • Adam Sippel • Bryce Winther • Lisa Snyder • Kathy Walker

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

12:00pm: Kiwanis meets at the Community Center

Thursday, Aug. 18

Bad Poetry Day

Senior Menu: Hot turkey combo, mashed potatoes and gravy, 7 layer salad, fruit.

Birthday: • Jason Osterman

10:00am: Boys golf at Milbank

1:30pm: Emmanuel Lutheran WECLA "Do Day" Election of Officers

Friday, Aug. 19

Aviation Day

Senior Menu: Lemon baked fish, rice pilaf, California blend veggies, peach crisp, whole wheat bread.

Anniv: Sherwin & Christine Nyberg

Birthdays: Michelle Leonhardt • Pat Nehls • Blake Anderson

4:00pm: Soccer at Belle Fourche (Girls at 4 pm, Boys at 6 pm MT)

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

Removal, Grinding, Chipping, Trimming

605-725-WOOD

Mason Dinger: 605-216-6098

Trevor Zeck: 605-216-8910



Constitutional Amendment S

Title:

An initiated amendment to the South Dakota Constitution to expand rights for crime victims

Attorney General Explanation

Currently, state statutes provide certain rights to crime victims. This measure expands these rights and places them in the State Constitution.

Under the amendment, the rights provided to a victim generally include: protection from harassment or abuse; the right to privacy; timely notice of all trial, sentence, and post-judgment proceedings including pardon or parole; the right to confer with the attorney for the government; and the opportunity to provide input during all phases of the criminal justice process. Victims will be given written notification of their rights.

The rights may be enforced by the victim, the victim's attorney or representative, or the attorney for the government. They may be enforced in any trial court, appeals court, or other proceeding affecting the victim's rights.

The definition of "victim" includes a person who suffers direct or threatened harm as the result of any crime, attempted crime, or act of juvenile delinquency. It also includes that person's spouse, children, extended family members, guardians, and others with a substantially similar relationship.

If a victim's rights provided by this amendment conflict with a criminal defendant's rights under the South Dakota and United States Constitutions, a court may determine that the defendant's rights take priority. A vote "Yes" is for expanding statutory rights of victims and placing the rights in the Constitution.

A vote "No" will leave the Constitution as it is.

Pro

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Constitutional Amendment S

A 'Yes' vote on Amendment S, known as Marsy's Law, will establish a Crime Victims' Bill of Rights in the South Dakota.

South Dakota has some of the weakest crime victim rights in the nation. We are one of the last remaining states that fails to provide an equal level of rights under the constitution to victims of crime. The U.S. and South Dakota constitutions provide those accused of crimes with due process protections, but our state constitution does not give crime victims the right to meaningfully participate in the criminal justice process. Marsy's Law will give victims basic constitutional rights, including: the right to be notified of hearings, the right to be present and the right to be heard at those hearings. It would give victims the right to confer with the prosecuting attorney in their case and to provide input before a plea agreement is finalized.

Marsy's Law will also give victims the right to privacy and the right to refuse unreasonable requests for discovery or the release of personal information. In addition, it will give victims the right to be notified of any changes in the custodial status of the offender in their case.

The opponent arguments have already been proven wrong by the many other states that have already passed Marsy's Law or similar laws. Other states prove Marsy's Law does not result in any significant cost increases, burden the court system or violate any rights the accused already have.

A 'Yes' vote for Amendment S is a vote to ensure that victims of crime are afforded rights on a level equal to those of the accused and convicted. A 'Yes' vote is for equal rights.

Jason Glodt, Attorney

Former Assistant Attorney General

State Director for Marsy's Law for South Dakota

Con

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Constitutional Amendment S

The State Bar of South Dakota, through a vote of all its members, has voted to oppose Constitutional Amendment S, labeled "Victim's Rights" or "Marsy's Law." The isolated incident from California that fu-

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eled this proposal has been cured since 1991 when South Dakota originally enacted the Victim's Rights Act, and the other proposed rights are either currently in statute or also included in the Federal Victim's Rights Act. Violations of current state law are enforceable, and if changes should be made to the Victim's Rights Act these changes should be made through our state legislature.

The main opposition focuses on how this proposed amendment would prohibit our county state's attorneys from spending their limited resources on the most serious crimes.

For example, this constitutional amendment greatly expands the definition of who is a 'victim'. This will force state's attorneys to consult with grocery stores before resolving misdemeanor petty theft cases. Doing so will require the limited resources provided to our counties to be spent on low-level cases and away from the prosecution of more serious cases, such as rape, aggravated assault, or murder. Many counties will see increased costs to comply with this state mandate. As a result, the South Dakota State's Attorney's Association also opposes Amendment S. Providing these constitutional rights would create a tool for a person to use the criminal justice system to seek vengeance against a person who allegedly did them wrong. The amendment creates constitutional rights that directly conflict with the constitutional rights afforded to the accused by the Founding Fathers of our country. Resolving these conflicts will delay justice for all, the accused and the victim.

In essence, this proposal is duplicative to enforceable rights already in statute and will be extremely costly to the South Dakota taxpayer.

Ryan Kolbeck, Attorney on behalf of the State Bar of South Dakota



Customer Appreciation and Check-R-Board Days

Aug. 22 through Aug. 25

Different happenings everyday

Monday is cookies and coffee

On Tuesday all attendees receive a Purina cap

Wednesday is bring your pet in for a treat

**Thursday is roast beef sandwiches, beans and drink
served from noon to 7 pm.**

**Be sure to wear your checker board clothing
to be eligible to win \$500.**

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The gravel was put down on the site of the new Dollar General Store on Tuesday.



Some of the new elementary playground equipment was unpacked and put together on Tuesday.

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Today in Weather History

August 17, 1961: Intensive rainfall occurred during the overnight hours on the 17th through the early morning hours on the 18th. Some rainfall amounts include 4.13 inches in Clark, 2.52 inches 1 W of Summit, 2.50 in Andover, 2.20 in Waubay, 2.15 in Wilmot, 2.12 in Wheaton, and 2.10 in Clear Lake.

August 17, 2007: An estimated four to six inches of rain and hail to the size of baseballs caused localized flooding between Piedmont and Tilford in Meade County, especially near poor drainage areas and at a barricade along a frontage road. The water washed over several roads and was several inches deep on Interstate 90, forcing law enforcement officials to close it for a couple of hours. Torrential rains estimated at four to six inches fell west of Hermosa in Custer County between 6 pm and 8 pm MST. Battle and Grace Coolidge Creeks overflowed their banks and several dry canyons filled with water and drained into the creeks. State highways 40 and 36 were flooded in numerous spots. A river gauge on Battle Creek just east of Hermosa crested at 14.91 feet at 9 pm, rising from 2.63 ft at 7:30 pm and above the flood stage of 8.0 feet. About six inches of water covered Highway 79 at the Battle Creek bridge. A railroad bridge about 3/4 mile downstream became clogged with debris and water rose behind the embankment and flooded six homes. At about 8:30 pm MST, a section of the embankment failed, flooding a new subdivision on the other side. All of the approximately 20 houses were damaged; three homes were washed off their foundations, and one of those houses was carried a half a mile east of the subdivision by the flowing water. There were no injuries.

1899: Hurricane San Ciriaco set many records on its path. Killing nearly 3,500 people in Puerto Rico, it was the deadliest hurricane to hit the island and the strongest at the time, until 30 years later when the island was affected by the Hurricane San Felipe Segundo, a Category 5 hurricane, in 1928. It was also the tenth deadliest Atlantic hurricane ever recorded. San Ciriaco is also the longest lasting Atlantic hurricane in recorded history, lasting for 28 days. On August 17, the hurricane turned back to the northwest and made landfall near Hatteras, North Carolina on the following day. San Ciriaco remains the strongest hurricane to make landfall on the Outer Banks since 1899.

1946: An estimated F-4 tornado killed 11 people and injured 100 others in the Mankato, Minnesota area around 6:52 PM. The deaths and most of the injuries occurred in the complete destruction of the 26 cabins at the Green Gables tourist camp, 3 miles southwest of Mankato. A 27-ton road grader was reportedly hurled about 100 feet. Another tornado an hour later destroys downtown Wells, Minnesota.

1915 - A hurricane hit Galveston, TX, with wind gusts to 120 mph and a twelve foot storm surge. The storm claimed 275 lives, including forty-two on Galveston Island, with most deaths due to drowning. Of 250 homes built outside the seawall (which was constructed after the catastrophic hurricane of 1900), just ten percent were left standing. (The Weather Channel)








1969: The music festival, known as Woodstock, should have ended on this day. Jimi Hendrix, the last act to perform, was delayed due to rain on Sunday evening. Jimi Hendrix took the stage at 8:30 am Monday morning.

1987 - Evening thunderstorms produced severe weather in the Northern and Central Plains Region. One thunderstorm spawned a tornado near Fairbury NE, along with baseball size hail and wind gusts to 100 mph, causing severe crop damage west of town. Ten cities in the eastern U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date. Syracuse NY hit 97 degrees for the first time in twenty-two years. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

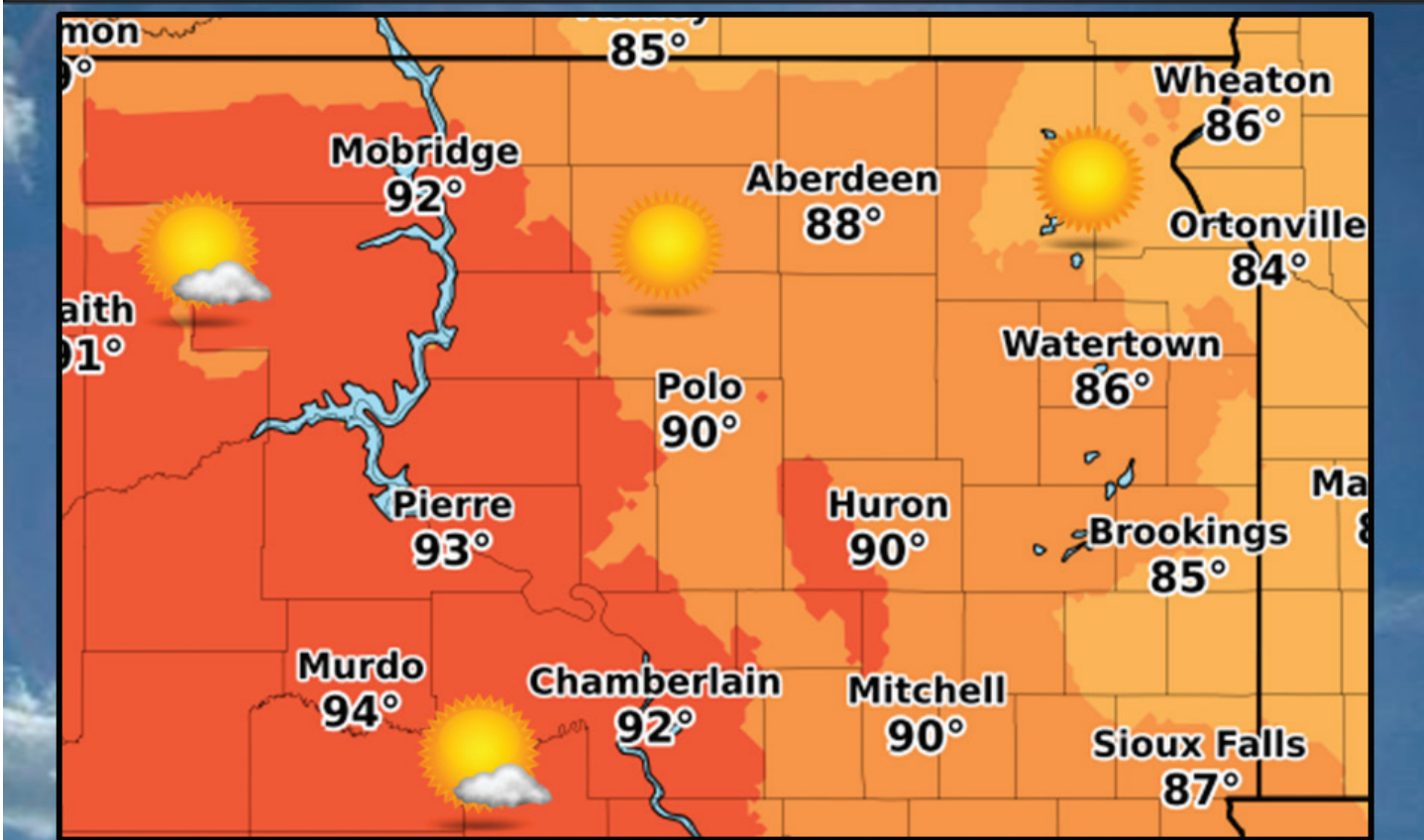
1988 - Fifty-five cities, from the Middle Mississippi Valley to the Middle Atlantic Coast Region, reported record high temperatures for the date. Beckley WV reported an all-time record high of 96 degrees, and Baltimore MD hit 104 degrees, marking their thirteenth day of the year with 100 degree heat. Chicago IL equalled a record with 46 days of 90 degree weather for the year. Thunderstorms produced severe weather from Wisconsin to New Jersey. Thunderstorms in New Jersey produced high winds which gusted to 92 mph at Wrightstown, and blew down a circus tent at Lavallette injuring fourteen persons. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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Today	Tonight	Thursday	Thursday Night	Friday	Friday Night	Saturday
						
Areas Fog then Sunny	Mostly Clear then Slight Chance T-storms	Chance T-storms	T-storms Likely	Chance T-storms	Chance T-storms	Partly Sunny
High: 86 °F	Low: 65 °F	High: 85 °F	Low: 61 °F	High: 71 °F	Low: 52 °F	High: 67 °F

Mostly Sunny and Warm Today



weather.gov/Aberdeen



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen

Updated: 8/17/2016 5:38 AM Central

Published on: 08/17/2016 at 5:43AM

High pressure over the region today will bring mostly sunny skies and generally light winds, especially for eastern areas. Temperatures will remain on the warm side, with highs ranging from the mid 80s to mid 90s. Showers and thunderstorms are possible beginning this evening, with strong to severe storms becoming increasingly likely by late Thursday afternoon and Thursday night.

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 85.5 F at 3:31 PM

Heat Index: 92.0 at 3:26 PM

Low Outside Temp: 62.1 F at 5:05 AM

High Gust: 15.0 Mph at 4:49 PM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 104° in 1976

Record Low: 39 in 2012

Average High: 82°F

Average Low: 56°F

Average Precip in Aug: 1.33

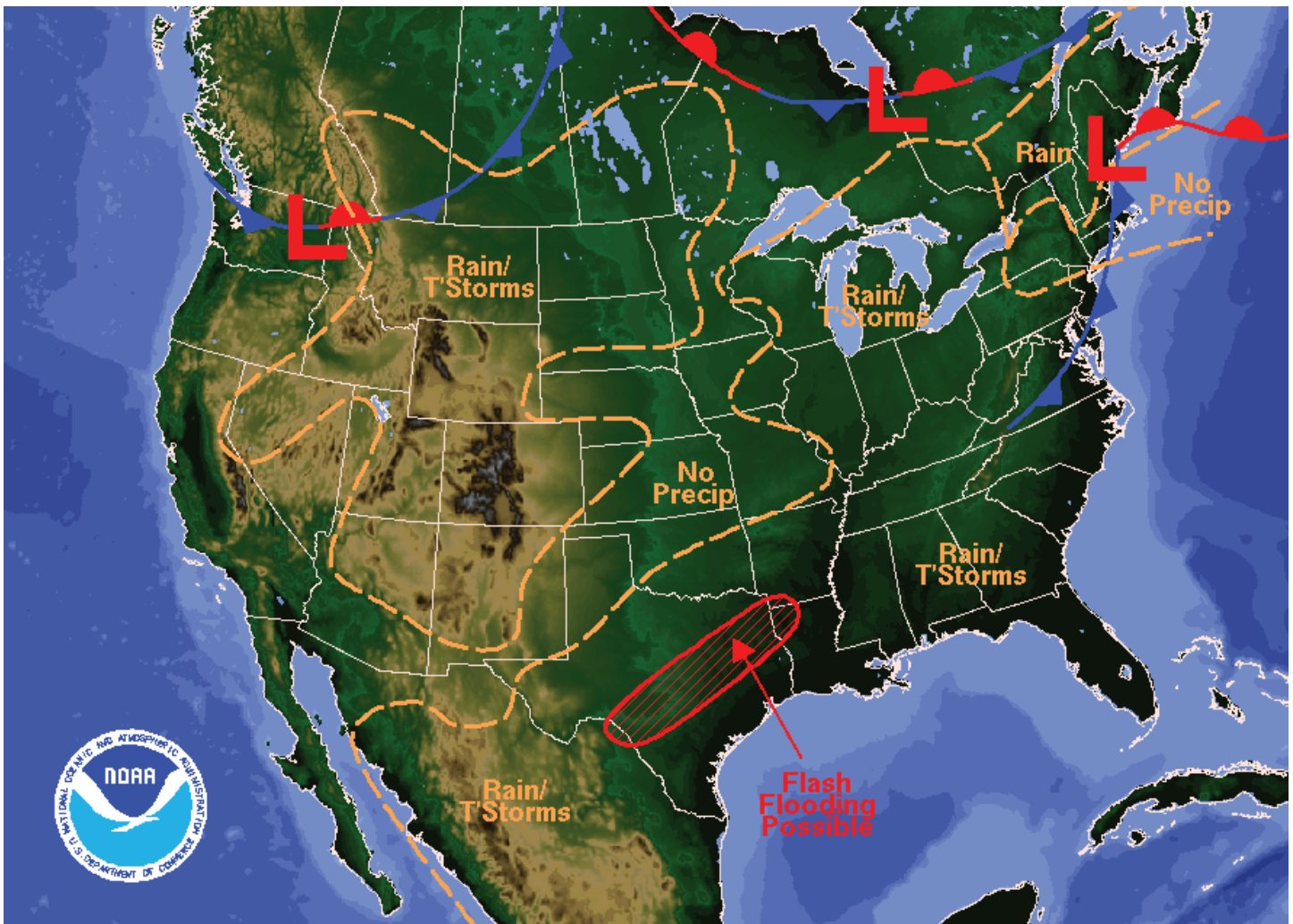
Precip to date in Aug: 1.45

Average Precip to date: 15.19

Precip Year to Date: 12.53

Sunset Tonight: 8:36 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:38 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Wed, Aug 17, 2016, issued 4:21 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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"I DO CARE"

George went to confession on a regular basis. He was more faithful than most. But whenever he went his attitude expressed no feelings of remorse and his behavior showed no signs of repentance.

His priest was concerned that there was no sorrow for his sins or shame for his shortcomings. It hurt the priest because he loved George deeply. He had known him from his childhood.

One day in his frustration he said, "George, please go into the cathedral. Near the altar is a statue of Christ on the cross. Get down on your knees, look into the face of our Lord, raise your fist and say, 'Jesus, you did all this for me but I don't really care! It's just not that important to me.' Will you do that for me?"

Reluctantly he agreed and went into the cathedral. He slowly walked to the cross, dropped to his knees, looked up into the face of Jesus and began to repeat the words of the priest: "Jesus, you did all this for me...Jesus you did all this for me...Jesus you did all this for me." Suddenly he began to sob loudly and shouted, "Jesus forgive me, please forgive me for my sins. Now that I see You, I really do care."

Once we finally see and understand what Jesus did for us on the cross of Calvary our lives will change.

Prayer: Lord, may we come to that place in our lives where we will in some small way realize the depth of Your suffering, the price of our salvation and of the debt we owe You by the care we show others. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

golden
living

We now accept



for out patient therapy.

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

News from the Associated Press

Lawmakers studying drug abuse prevention to meet at Capitol

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A group of lawmakers looking at how to prevent drug abuse in South Dakota is meeting at the state Capitol.

The Substance Abuse Prevention Interim Study Committee meets Wednesday. The committee is hearing from former U.S. attorney from North Dakota Timothy Purdon.

Purdon is discussing the challenges of fighting meth and problems from drugs on Native American reservations.

The study committee is also taking input from the public about meth use on reservations, as well as opioid use. Republican Sen. Jim White is chairing the group.

Judge orders protesters not to interfere with oil pipeline

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — A federal judge is ordering protesters in North Dakota not to interfere with the construction of a \$3.8 billion, four-state oil pipeline.

U.S. District Court Judge Daniel Hovland granted the developer's motion for a temporary restraining order Tuesday.

Dakota Access filed a lawsuit in federal court Monday against protesters. The Texas-based company's complaint alleges protesters are putting the safety of workers and law enforcement at risk.

The order says lawful assembly and peaceful protest are "the hallmark of our democracy," but threats of violence aren't acceptable.

The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe late last month sued federal regulators for approving the pipeline from North Dakota through South Dakota and Iowa to Illinois.

Dakotas governors named to Trump agriculture committee

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump has named the two GOP governors of the Dakotas to an agricultural advisory committee.

Trump's campaign announced Tuesday that North Dakota Gov. Jack Dalrymple and South Dakota Gov. Dennis Daugaard are on his new Agricultural Advisory Committee.

Trump says the members represent the best America can offer to help serve agricultural communities. Daugaard says he's happy to offer his thoughts to Trump because the next president needs to understand agriculture's importance to the nation.

Trump faces Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton in November.

Oil pipeline construction halted amid talks with protesters

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — Developers of a \$3.8 billion, four-state oil pipeline halted construction Tuesday while law enforcement and tribal leaders in North Dakota met to discuss a resolution to an ongoing protest.

Morton County Sheriff Kyle Kirchmeier says he met with tribal leaders to "negotiate peace" to ensure the safety of everyone involved.

Dakota Access filed a lawsuit in federal court Monday against protesters. The Texas-based company's complaint alleges protesters are putting the safety of workers and law enforcement at risk.

The sheriff says 28 protesters have been arrested since last week for interfering with the construction

of the pipeline that's designed to carry North Dakota crude to Illinois.

Kirchmeier says the peace talks will be ongoing. He says construction is slated to resume Wednesday.

Automated victim information system rolling out

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Attorney General Marty Jackley says the state is rolling out an automated victim information and notification system.

Jackley said Tuesday that the Statewide Automated Victim Information and Notification System is meant to benefit crime victims and the people who serve them.

The automated service is free and gives victims of crimes information about offenders including trial or sentencing dates, changes in bond conditions or release from custody.

Jackley says serving crime victims should be a top priority in South Dakota. He says the system will create more transparency in criminal proceedings by making information more accessible.

State archaeologist: No human remains found at pipeline site

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — North Dakota's chief archaeologist says a report of possible human remains being found at a pipeline construction site is unfounded.

Paul Picha (PEEK'-ah) says authorities were notified on Friday by the Bureau of Indian Affairs and others that human remains might have been unearthed near the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation in southern North Dakota.

Opponents of the \$3.8 billion Dakota Access pipeline being built from North Dakota to Illinois are protesting the project in the area and several arrests have been made for interfering with the work.

Picha says he and others inspected the site and found no evidence of "human remains, a burial, or other cultural remains."

First suspect in 2015 slaying of man on Pine Ridge sentenced

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — One of six Pine Ridge men charged in the death of a 30-year-old man a year ago has been sentenced to 17 ½ years in prison.

Twenty-three-year-old Steven Steele earlier had pleaded guilty to second-degree murder in the July 12, 2015, death of Ferris Brings Plenty.

Deputy U.S. Attorney Megan Poppen on Monday described Steele as one of the primary aggressors in the killing, saying Steele admitted to hitting Brings Plenty in the head several times with a machete.

Three other men charged in the case have pleaded guilty. Steele is the first to be sentenced.

Authorities allege the men killed Brings Plenty with a machete, a stick, a bat and a cinder block. They say Brings Plenty was visiting his mother and did not know his attackers.

Authorities identify man killed in Interstate 90 bike crash

PRESHO, S.D. (AP) — Authorities have identified a man who died in a weekend crash on Interstate 90 in Lyman County involving two motorcycles driven by twin brothers from Sioux Falls.

The Highway Patrol says 58-year-old James Woldt Jr. was killed. Fifty-eight-year-old David Woldt suffered injuries that were not life-threatening.

The crash happened 6 miles west of Presho near midday Sunday. Neither bike had any passengers.

Rapid City Council OKs voluntary retirement buyout program

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — The Rapid City Council has approved a voluntary retirement buyout program for long-term city employees that Mayor Steve Allender says could save the city hundreds of thousands of dollars in the long run.

One out of every eight city employees is eligible, and the program targeting employees at the higher end of the pay scale could be a simple way to trim labor costs, according to Allender.

The council on Monday approved the one-time program in a unanimous vote, though one member expressed worries about the possibility of losing too many experienced employees.

"I'm just kind of concerned about the knowledge base that these people would take with them, and just replacing them might take a little bit longer than you would hope," Councilwoman Darla Drew said. "The savings might not be the only thing you are looking at here. That's hard to measure."

Full-time employees with at least 20 years of city experience who are eligible under the South Dakota Retirement System can receive three months of bonus pay in exchange for retiring by the end of the year. The city employs nearly 800 people, and nearly 100 are eligible.

The maximum \$1.5 million cost of the buyout could be recovered in less than two years, according to Jeff Barbier, director of the Community Resources Department.

Aerodynamics Inc. makes inaugural flight out of Pierre

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Aerodynamics Inc. has begun flights between South Dakota's capital city and Denver after a rocky two-year process, pleasing both city and state leaders.

"I know (first lady) Linda and I will be flying out of Pierre again," Gov. Dennis Daugaard said during a Monday ceremony marking Aerodynamics' first flight with a 50-passenger jet. Daugaard and others have been flying out of Sioux Falls or Rapid City, according to the Capital Journal.

Pierre officials began looking for a new carrier in 2014 after becoming dissatisfied with Great Lake Airlines, whose service to Denver and Minneapolis was plagued by flight delays and cancelations. Great Lakes blamed the problems on a pilot shortage caused by federal regulations.

Pierre leaders in late 2014 recommended Aerodynamics take over service under the federal Essential Air Service subsidy program that aims to maintain flights in smaller, rural communities. City officials later soured on the carrier due to concerns over finances and management. Last April, they decided to once again recommend Aerodynamics, after the carrier made leadership changes.

The federal Transportation Department earlier this summer awarded a two-year contract to Aerodynamics to provide federally subsidized air service to Pierre and Watertown.

Pierre no longer has service to Minneapolis, as it did with Great Lakes, but Mayor Laurie Gill said "our first goal was to get reliable service to a major hub (and) we've done that."

The Latest: Governor suspends deadlines in legal cases

GONZALES, La. (AP) — The Latest on flooding in the Deep South (all times local):
6:25 a.m.

Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards has taken a step to make sure widespread flooding in Louisiana doesn't cause problems in pending legal proceedings.

State Supreme Court Chief Justice Bernette Johnson said in a Tuesday news release that Edwards has issued an executive order imposing an emergency suspension of all deadlines for legal proceedings in state courts, administrative agencies and boards.

The order is effective retroactively to last Friday and lasts until Sept. 9.

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5:45 a.m.

The Red Cross says more than 1,000 disaster volunteers have been mobilized from all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico to help with the Louisiana flood relief efforts.

Brad Kieserman, vice president, Disaster Services Operations and Logistics for the Red Cross, said in a news release the massive relief operation will cost at least \$30 million.

Kieserman says the flooding in Louisiana is the worst natural disaster to strike the United States since Superstorm Sandy.

He said the Red Cross is also seeking additional volunteers to assist in Louisiana.

2 a.m.

The heartbreaking task of sorting through waterlogged belongings and ripping out carpets and dry-wall is kicking into high gear in flood-wracked southern Louisiana.

Residents will continue going back to their homes Wednesday, assessing damage and getting to work on repairs, in areas where the waters have receded enough.

Downstream many are eyeing swollen rivers to see whether more damage is coming.

Hundreds of people evacuated to a shelter in Ascension Parish as the river water that hit areas around Baton Rouge worked its way south.

The state also faces a long-term challenge of how to house the thousands of displaced people and how to pay for the damage the water left behind.

AP Sources: Manafort tied to undisclosed foreign lobbying

JEFF HORWITZ, Associated Press

DESMOND BUTLER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Donald Trump's campaign chairman helped a pro-Russian governing party in Ukraine secretly route at least \$2.2 million in payments to two prominent Washington lobbying firms in 2012, and did so in a way that effectively obscured the foreign political party's efforts to influence U.S. policy.

The revelation, provided to The Associated Press by people directly knowledgeable about the effort, comes at a time when Trump has faced criticism for his friendly overtures to Russian President Vladimir Putin. It also casts new light on the business practices of campaign chairman Paul Manafort.

Under federal law, U.S. lobbyists must declare publicly if they represent foreign leaders or their political parties and provide detailed reports about their actions to the Justice Department. A violation is a felony and can result in up to five years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000.

Trump shook up his campaign organization Wednesday, putting two new longtime Republican conservative strategists as chief executive officer and campaign manager. It was unclear what impact the shakeup would have on Manafort, but he retains his title as campaign chairman.

Manafort and business associate Rick Gates, another top strategist in Trump's campaign, were working in 2012 on behalf of the political party of Ukraine's then-president, Viktor Yanukovich.

People with direct knowledge of Gates' work said that, during the period when Gates and Manafort were consultants to the Ukraine president's political party, Gates was also helping steer the advocacy work done by a pro-Yanukovich nonprofit that hired a pair of Washington lobbying firms, Podesta Group Inc. and Mercury LLC.

The nonprofit, the newly created European Centre for a Modern Ukraine, was governed by a board that initially included parliament members from Yanukovich's party. The nonprofit subsequently paid at least \$2.2 million to the lobbying firms to advocate positions generally in line with those of Yanu-

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kovych's government.

That lobbying included downplaying the necessity of a congressional resolution meant to pressure the Ukrainian leader to release an imprisoned political rival.

The lobbying firms continued the work until shortly after Yanukovich fled the country in February 2014, during a popular revolt prompted in part by his government's crackdown on protesters and close ties to Russia.

Among those who described Manafort's and Gates's relationship with the nonprofit are current and former employees of the Podesta Group. Some of them spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to reveal details about the work and because they remain subject to non-disclosure agreements.

Gates told the AP that he and Manafort introduced the lobbying firms to the European Centre nonprofit and occasionally consulted with the firms on Ukrainian politics. He called the actions lawful, and said there was no attempt to circumvent the reporting requirements of the U.S. Foreign Agents Registration Act.

The heads of both lobbying firms told AP they concluded there was no obligation to disclose their activities to the Justice Department. Manafort did not directly respond to AP's requests to discuss the work, but he was copied on the AP's questions and Gates said he spoke to Manafort before providing answers to them.

Political consultants are generally leery of registering under the foreign agents law, because their reputations can suffer once they are on record as accepting money to advocate the interests of foreign governments — especially if those interests conflict with America's.

Ironically, one of the lobbying firms Manafort and Gates worked with has strong Democratic ties.

The founder and chairman of the Podesta Group, Tony Podesta, is the brother of longtime Democratic strategist John Podesta, who now is campaign chairman for Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton. The head of Mercury, Vin Weber, is an influential Republican, former congressman and former special policy adviser to Mitt Romney. Weber announced earlier this month that he will not support Trump.

After being introduced to the lobbying firms, the European nonprofit paid the Podesta Group \$1.13 million between June 2012 and April 2014 to lobby Congress, the White House National Security Council, the State Department and other federal agencies, according to U.S. lobbying records.

The nonprofit also paid \$1.07 million over roughly the same period to Mercury to lobby Congress. Among other issues, Mercury opposed congressional efforts to pressure Ukraine to release one of Yanukovich's political rivals from prison.

One former Podesta employee, speaking on condition of anonymity because of a non-disclosure agreement, said Gates described the nonprofit's role in an April, 2012 meeting as supplying a source of money that could not be traced to the Ukrainian politicians who were paying him and Manafort.

In separate interviews, three current and former Podesta employees said disagreements broke out within the firm over the arrangement, which at least one former employee considered obviously illegal. Podesta, who said the project was vetted by his firm's counsel, said he was unaware of any such disagreements.

A legal opinion drafted for the project for Mercury in May 2012, and obtained by AP, concluded that the European Centre qualified as a "foreign principal" under the Foreign Agents Registration Act but said disclosure to the Justice Department was not required. That determination was based on the nonprofit's assurances that none of its activities was directly or indirectly supervised, directed, controlled, financed or subsidized by Ukraine's government or any of the country's political parties.

The Podesta Group's CEO, Kimberley Fritts, said the two lobbying firms had coordinated on the legal conclusion that disclosure was not necessary to the Justice Department.

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"If counsel had determined FARA was the way to go, we would have gladly registered under FARA," she said in a statement to the AP. She said the nonprofit provided a signed statement affirming its independence from Ukraine's government.

People involved in the lobbying project offered contradictory descriptions of how it came about.

Podesta told the AP his firm worked closely with the nonprofit and with Gates simultaneously. But Podesta said Gates was not working for Yanukovich's political party and said Manafort was not involved.

"I was never given any reason to believe Rick was a Party of Regions consultant," said John Ward Anderson, a current Podesta employee who attended the meeting, in a statement provided by his firm. "My assumption was that he was working for the Centre, as we were."

Gates, in contrast, told AP he was working with Manafort and that both he and Manafort were working for Yanukovich's party.

Pointing to Manafort's involvement, Weber told AP that Manafort discussed the project before it began in a conference call with Podesta and himself.

The director of the European Centre, Ina Kirsch, told the AP her group never worked with Manafort or Gates and said the group hired the Washington lobbyists on its own. She said she had met with Manafort twice but said neither Manafort nor Gates played a role in its lobbying activities.

The center has declined for years to reveal specific sources of its funding.

Prosecutions under the Foreign Agents Registration Act are generally rare, although a former U.S. congressman, Mark Siljander, R-Mich., pleaded guilty in July 2010 to illegal lobbying under the law and obstruction of justice for his work with a charity in Khartoum, Sudan, that prosecutors said was suspected of funding international terrorism. Siljander served one year in prison.

Lobbyists in general prefer not to register under the foreign agents law because its requirements are so much more demanding, making their activities more open to public scrutiny.

The Justice Department, for example, requires those who register as lobbyists on behalf of foreign governments or parties to detail the home addresses of lobbyists and descriptions of all receipts, payments, political contributions and details about any lectures, emails, pamphlets or press releases they create.

Lobbying records filed in the U.S. Senate, in contrast, such as the ones describing payments to the Podesta Group and Mercury by the European Centre, are far less detailed.

The Justice Department's own published guidelines describe foreign political parties as covered under the law.

Podesta's firm has previously registered its activities with the Justice Department over its work for Albania, the Republic of Azerbaijan, Cyprus, Georgia, India, Japan, Kenya, Kosovo, the Maldives, Moldova, Morocco, Somalia, South Korea, South Sudan, Vietnam and others. Mercury has disclosed to the Justice Department its work on behalf of government interests in the Cayman Islands, Nigeria, Qatar, Somalia, Turkey, one of the United Arab Emirates, Uganda and others.

Grandfather: Man killed by police was just trying to survive

TODD RICHMOND, Associated Press

MILWAUKEE (AP) — The man killed in a police shooting that sparked two nights of violence in Milwaukee suffered from cognitive and mental health issues, and he carried a gun because he had been shot more than once in the past, his grandfather said.

Sylville K. Smith had a lengthy criminal past, but was just trying to survive in the inner city, William Brookins told The Associated Press.

"In this city, there's a lot of killings going on in the street," said Brookins, who detailed Smith's prob-

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lems in a letter to a judge last year seeking mercy for his grandson. "He was afraid for his life. He was concerned about his safety and surviving."

Smith, 23, was shot and killed Saturday after a brief foot chase that followed a traffic stop. Police say Smith was fleeing, and officials have said the officer's body camera shows him being shot after he turned toward the officer with a gun in his hand.

The officer, who has not been identified, is black, as was Smith. A few hours after the shooting, violence erupted on the city's largely black north side, with protesters hurling rocks at police and burning six businesses. A lighter night of protests followed Sunday. Monday was calm, though 10 people were arrested. There were no reports of protesters gathering on Tuesday night.

Smith had several run-ins with the law dating to 2013, including speeding, driving without insurance, driving with a suspended license and having open alcohol in a vehicle.

In 2013, he was charged with felony retail theft for allegedly stealing \$1,600 worth of DVDs from a Milwaukee Wal-Mart. According to a criminal complaint, Smith and another man were seen removing fans from their boxes and putting the DVDs in the boxes. Prosecutors later dismissed the charge.

A year later, he was charged with carrying a concealed weapon without a permit, a misdemeanor. According to court documents, two officers on bike patrol approached Smith and his friends after smelling marijuana in their vehicle and found a loaded .45-caliber pistol under Smith's shirt. Smith pleaded guilty and was sentenced to one day in jail.

In early 2015, Smith was charged with reckless endangerment, a felony. Investigators alleged he opened fire on a man in retaliation for the man's role in a fight between some girls weeks earlier. According to a complaint, Smith and the man got into a car chase before the man finally stopped and ran on foot. Smith chased after the man and shot at him. He eluded Smith by hiding behind a house, according to the complaint.

As that case was pending, Smith was charged with felony intimidation of a witness — the man he was accused of shooting at. Prosecutors said he had his girlfriend call the man and pressure him to recant. The man did, according to prosecutors, who dropped both cases that year.

Brookins said his grandson's criminal record was "nothing in comparison to other people." He said Smith had never been convicted of a felony.

"That's the law, OK," Brookins said. "He's not guilty."

He described Smith as a good kid with a "beautiful personality."

Smith was known for his hip-hop dance moves and trained in gymnastics when he was in middle school, Brookins said.

He also suffered from mental health issues, Brookins said. He declined to go into detail, saying only that Smith had problems with "comprehension and understanding" and spent time in special classes in elementary and middle school. In a letter to the judge in the reckless endangerment case, Brookins wrote that Smith was receiving Social Security payments because of his mental health problems.

Smith had been shot on more than one occasion, Brookins said. The last time was "a few years ago" when he was hit six times in front of his mother's house. His grandfather did not have any information on what precipitated the shooting but said Smith still carried bullet fragments in his body.

Smith started carrying a gun after that incident.

"That really had a great effect on him and his fear of being hurt and the need to protect himself from people trying to do him harm," Brookins said.

Milwaukee police could not immediately confirm Brookins' account. A spokesman told The Associated Press to file a records request.

Smith's mother, Mildred Haynes, told the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel that her son had recently re-

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ceived his concealed-carry license because he had been shot twice and robbed four times, including a robbery in which he was stripped of all his clothes. He leaves behind a 2-year-old son.

"I'm not going to say he was an angel. He was out here living his life," Smith's godmother, Katherine Mahmoud, told the newspaper.

"It's hard to grasp he's no longer here," Brookins said. "Oh, my God. This is terrible."

Greece coast guard rescues 59 from migrant dinghy in Aegean

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Greece's coast guard rescued 59 migrants in an inflatable dinghy in rough weather in the Aegean Sea early Wednesday, the coast guard said.

The migrants were picked up off the eastern island of Kos by two patrol boats. They were among a total of 147 people who arrived on three islands in the 24 hours between Tuesday morning and Wednesday morning.

Of the others, 44 reached the small island of Kalymnos and the remaining 44 were picked up by the coast guard from another inflatable dinghy off the island of Lesbos.

With many islands close to the Turkish coast, Greece has been the main entry point into the European Union for hundreds of thousands of migrants and refugees hoping for better lives in Europe, especially in the continent's more prosperous central and northern nations.

An EU-Turkish agreement and Balkan border closures have severely reduced the flow of people through the country this year. Under the deal, new arrivals on Greek islands face being returned to Turkey unless they successfully apply for asylum in Greece.

The measure has left more than 57,600 people stranded in Greece. More than 10,700 of those are on eastern Aegean islands, many living in overcrowded conditions in camps that have long surpassed capacity, particularly on the islands of Chios, Lesbos and Samos.

The aid group Save the Children says those stranded on the islands include about 3,800 children, and has warned that women and children are living in "demoralizing and unsafe conditions."

Turkey wants Germany to explain 'Islamist platform' claim

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — Turkey says it wants a clarification from Berlin over reports in Germany about a confidential government document that says Turkey has become a platform of action for Islamist groups.

The document, first reported by ARD public television and obtained by The Associated Press on Tuesday, was contained in a classified section of a reply from the German Interior Ministry to questions from an opposition party.

A Turkish Foreign Ministry statement on Wednesday dismissed the reports as the "work of the distorted mentality" in Germany that aims to harm Turkey.

The ministry insists Turkey is a country that fights "all forms of terrorism with sincerity."

The German document, dated Aug. 10, cited "numerous statements of solidarity and supportive actions" for Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood, Hamas and Islamist opposition groups in Syria.

Monstrous California wildfire drives over 80,000 from homes

ROBERT JABLON, Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — It tore through canyons and flew over ridges in every direction with astonishing speed, sending flames 80 feet skyward and forcing tens of thousands to flee their homes.

The Southern California wildfire that began as a small midmorning patch of flame next to Interstate

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15 in the Cajon Pass had by Tuesday's end turned into a 28-square-mile monster that had burned an untold number of homes.

"This moved so fast," said Darren Dalton, 51, who along with his wife and son had to get out of his house in Wrightwood, a mountain town of 4,500 popular with skiers in winter. "It went from 'have you heard there's a fire?' to 'mandatory evacuation' before you could take it all in. This is a tight little community up here. Always in rally mode. Suddenly it's a ghost town."

Hundreds of cars packed with residents, belongings and animals left the town. The air for miles around the blaze was filled with smoke. The sound of explosions — possibly from ammunition stored in homes — could be heard in the distance.

Shannon Anderson of Blue Mountain Farms horse ranch in Phelan had to load up and evacuate 40 horses as the fire approached. "It's raining ash," Anderson said, breathing hard.

They were among more than 82,000 people from over 34,000 homes were under evacuation orders, said Eric Sherwin of the San Bernardino County Fire Department.

Devouring ranchlands 60 miles east of Los Angeles, the blaze surged west to the Los Angeles County line and east to the Mojave Desert in the east. The damages were likely to be vast and serious once they could be properly measured.

Sherwin confirmed Tuesday night that it had burned at least a dozen buildings, some of them homes. He said he had seen all kinds of things burn, including the Summit Inn, a historic diner near I-15, he said.

"I'm looking up here and I'm seeing buses, I'm seeing outbuildings, I'm seeing houses," he said.

It was among several large fires burning up and down California, from Shasta County in the far north to Camp Pendleton Marine base in San Diego County. It came after several steady weeks of major fires around the state, even though the full force of fire season has yet to arrive.

But even longtime observers were surprised by the staggering speed of the Southern California fire.

It prompted Gov. Jerry Brown to declare a state of emergency in the area within hours of it breaking out, a move that more often comes after a blaze has done several days of destruction.

The fire forced a shutdown of part of Interstate 15, leaving commuters and travelers stranded for hours.

Six firefighters were briefly trapped by flames at a home where the occupants had refused to leave, forcing the crew to protect the house, fire officials said.

"We were fully engulfed in smoke," county firefighter Cody Anderson told KCBS-TV. "It was really hard just to see your hand in front of your face."

"We just hunkered down and sat there and waited for the fire to blow over," he said.

Anderson and another firefighter were treated for minor injuries.

As that fire surged, a major blaze north of San Francisco was fading, and about 4,000 people in the town of Clearlake were allowed to return home.

Their relief, however, was tempered with anger at a man who authorities believe set the blaze that wiped out several blocks of a small town over the weekend along with 16 smaller fires dating back to last summer.

Investigators in Northern California said Tuesday they had been building a case against the suspected arsonist, 40-year-old construction worker Damin Anthony Pashilk, for more than a year. But they did not have enough evidence to make an arrest until the weekend blaze ripped through Lower Lake.

The fire destroyed 175 homes and other structures in the working-class town of Lower Lake.

"What I'd do to him, you don't want to know," said Butch Cancilla, who saw his neighbor's home catch fire as he fled on Sunday. Cancilla still doesn't know the fate of his own home.

"A lot of people want to hang him high," his wife, Jennie, added.

An attorney listed as representing Pashilk did not return a call requesting comment. Pashilk is scheduled to be arraigned Wednesday.

Staying ahead of the mold, residents salvage what they can

MICHAEL KUNZELMAN, Associated Press

MELINDA DESLATTE, Associated Press

REBECCA SANTANA, Associated Press

GONZALES, La. (AP) — The heartbreaking task of sorting through waterlogged belongings and ripping out carpets and drywall is kicking into high gear Wednesday in flood-wracked southern Louisiana as the state faces a long-term challenge of how to house thousands of displaced people.

But even as the water receded in some areas, it was rising in other places downstream, sending people fleeing to shelters.

Officials painted a stark picture of the crisis: at least 40,000 homes damaged and 11 people killed in some of the worst flooding in Louisiana history. More than 30,000 people have been rescued since Friday.

There were scattered reports of looting, and Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards said parishes with widespread damage were being placed under curfew as of Tuesday night.

The smell of muddy water hung heavy in the air as people donned surgical masks and began the back-breaking job of ripping out soggy carpet, drywall and insulation. They cleared out spiders and cockroaches that had bubbled up through the sewer grates.

By noon Tuesday, more than two dozen volunteers had arrived at Rhonda Brewer's Baton Rouge home, helping her take water-damaged belongings to the curb. Volunteers worked to remove wooden floor boards, sheet rock and insulation before the mold set in.

"The water was waist deep, so it's iffy if I can take the sheet rock and insulation half way or have to go to the ceiling," she said. "If we don't make it in time, we trash it."

Officials started going house to house to ensure everyone was accounted for. They also searched countless cars caught in the flooding.

"I don't know we have a good handle on the number of people who are missing," the governor said.

About 60,000 people have signed up for assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and 20 parishes were included in the federal disaster declaration.

And help was coming from quarters beyond the federal government.

Performer Taylor Swift told The Associated Press she is donating \$1 million to flood relief. She noted the state's residents graciously welcomed her kickoff of the U.S. dates of her "1989 World Tour" in Louisiana last year.

"The fact that so many people in Louisiana have been forced out of their own homes this week is heartbreaking," the 26-year-old said in a statement. "I encourage those who can to help out and send your love and prayers their way during this devastating time."

In Livingston Parish, one of the hardest-hit areas with about 138,000 people, an official estimated that 75 percent of the homes were a total loss.

Officials from Livingston Parish were in Baton Rouge on Tuesday to talk to federal officials about getting some sort of temporary housing for their first responders — a sign of the housing crunch likely to come with so many people out of their homes for weeks and perhaps months.

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Rivers and creeks were still dangerously bloated south of Baton Rouge as water drained toward the Gulf of Mexico.

Nearly 800 evacuees waited Tuesday in a makeshift Red Cross shelter in Gonzales at the Lamar Dixon Expo Center, a multipurpose facility that has hosted rodeos, car and truck shows and concerts.

Floyd Melancon, 71, and his partner, Judy McGehee, 61, remained in the dark about how much water — if any — their Prairieville home received.

"My neighbor sent me a picture. Water was in the yard. I don't know where it's at right now," Melancon said. "Judy and I think it's come up since then."

In the house for 14 years, the couple doesn't have flood insurance to cover repairs.

"We weren't in a flood zone. It had never flooded before," McGehee said.

Many of the homeowners in inundated areas have no flood insurance, leaving them prone to draining savings accounts and relying on federal disaster programs to rebuild and repair.

Insurance Commissioner Jim Donelon said in hard-hit Baton Rouge only 12 percent of residences are covered by flood insurance, and 14 percent in Lafayette — what he called "shocking."

People in many of the areas that remain underwater weren't considered in a high-risk flooding area and weren't required to carry flood insurance by mortgage lenders.

The governor said he is worried about "battle fatigue" setting in as rescuers and residents deal with day upon day of stress.

The trauma was evident among people who went back to their homes.

David Key used a small boat to get to his house in Prairieville and said it had taken on 5 inches of "muddy, nasty bayou water." There were fish and thousands of spiders, and mold had started to grow.

"I'm not going to lie, I cried uncontrollably," he said. "But you have to push forward and make it through. Like everybody says, you still have your family."

The Latest: Russia defends use of Iran base for Syria war

BEIRUT (AP) — The Latest on the developments in the Syrian civil war, a day after Russia used a base in Iran to launch airstrikes in the Arab country (all times local):

1:10 p.m.

The Russian foreign minister is rejecting allegations that Russia's use of Iranian military bases for airstrikes in Syria violates any UN sanctions on Iran.

Sergey Lavrov on Wednesday rejected allegations by U.S. State Department spokesman Mark Toner, who the day before said Russia's operation out of Iran could violate the U.N. resolution that prohibits the supply, sale and transfer of combat aircraft to Iran unless approved by the Security Council.

Lavrov says "there has been no supply, sale or transfer of combat jets to Iran" and insisted that the Russian Air Force's presence in Iran is only about using its facilities.

The minister also called on the U.S. not to "nitpick about what is happening in terms of the remaining restrictions on trade and ties with Iran."

12:20 p.m.

The Russian Defense Ministry says its warplanes have launched a new wave of airstrikes on Islamic State fighters in Syria.

The ministry says its jets took off earlier in the day on Wednesday from a base southwest of the Iranian capital, Tehran, to strike targets in the east of Syria. It says they destroyed two command posts and two training camps.

Iran on Tuesday allowed Russian warplanes to take off from its territory to bomb targets in Syria, for

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the first time since Russia launched its operation in the war-torn Arab nation last year.

11:20

Syria's state-run news agency says seven civilians have been killed and nine wounded by rocket rounds fired by armed groups on a government-controlled district of the city of Aleppo.

SANA says the rockets struck the Salaheddine residential district in the northern city on Wednesday. The city has been divided into a rebel-held eastern part and a government-controlled western part since 2012, and is now the focal point of the civil war.

On Tuesday, nearly 20 civilians were reported killed in airstrikes in eastern districts.

This update has been corrected to say 20 civilians were reported killed on Tuesday, not Friday.

11 a.m.

The speaker of Iran's parliament is stressing that Russia does not have a permanent military base within the Islamic Republic, a day after Moscow announced launching airstrikes on Syria from Iran.

The comments by Ali Larijani, reported on Wednesday by the state-run IRNA news agency, seem geared at easing domestic concerns over the strikes. Iran's constitution, ratified after its 1979 Islamic Revolution, bars foreign militaries from having bases within the country.

Larijani did not directly discuss the strikes in his comments.

Russia's Defense Ministry announced on Tuesday that it launched the strikes from near the Iranian city of Hamedan and struck targets in three provinces in northern and eastern Syria.

The announcement from Russia marks the first significant stationing of its troops there since World War II.

Suu Kyi to discuss frozen dam project on landmark China trip

ESTHER HTUSAN, Associated Press

YANGON, Myanmar (AP) — Myanmar's de facto leader Aung San Suu Kyi leaves for a high-profile trip to China on Wednesday to discuss the fate of a jointly built dam and hydroelectric plant that Myanmar put on hold amid questions over which country will benefit from it.

According to officials, the five-day visit will tackle a new and delicate era in relations, including development aid and Myanmar's upcoming complex peace process involving the government, the military and ethnic armed groups.

"The intention of the five-day visit is to build better relationship, and of course China will definitely talk about continuing the dam project but it won't be our priority of the visit," said Aye Aye Soe, the deputy director of Myanmar Foreign Affairs' Political Department.

It is Suu Kyi's first visit to Beijing since her National League for Democracy party took office in March. The former military-backed government of President Thein Sein suspended work on the Myitsone Dam in northern Myanmar in 2012, because 90 percent of electricity would benefit China. Environmental concerns and the project's impact on local communities also fed public anger over the construction of the dam.

Last week, President Htin Kyaw set up a 20-member commission to study and review dam projects on the Irrawaddy River, including Myitsone.

The chairman of the commission and the deputy speaker of the upper house, T Khun Myat, told reporters on Tuesday that the commission will make field visits and inspect the project's agreements.

The dam is to be built by the Upstream Ayeyawady Confluence Basin Hydropower Company, a joint venture between the China Power Investment Corp., Myanmar's Ministry of Electric Power and the Asia World Company, which has links to the former military regime.

"We will only decide after our commission has reviewed the project and Myanmar government (will) probably come up with a solution by then," said Aye Aye Soe.

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. TRUMP SHAKES UP CAMPAIGN STAFF AGAIN

Slipping in the polls, the Republican presidential nominee is bringing in Breitbart News' Stephen Bannon as campaign CEO and promoting pollster Kellyanne Conway to campaign manager.

2. WHY OPIOID EPIDEMIC HAS FAR-REACHING EFFECTS

More than 28,000 Americans died from overdosing on opiates in 2014, a record mark that impacts millions of family members, first responders and taxpayers.

3. LOUISIANA FLOOD CRISIS STAGGERING

At least 40,000 homes damaged, 30,000 people rescued and 11 people killed in some of the worst flooding in the state's history.

4. MONSTROUS CALIFORNIA WILDFIRE DRIVES OVER 80,000 FROM HOMES

The blaze northeast of Los Angeles turns into a 28-square-mile monster that had burned an untold number of homes in the Cajon Pass near Interstate 15.

5. WHAT MESSAGE MOSCOW MAY BE SENDING TO WASHINGTON

By using an Iranian air base to bomb targets in Syria, Russia puts overt pressure on the Obama administration to join a military partnership.

6. WHO MILWAUKEE VICTIM WAS

Sylville K. Smith, the black man killed in a police shooting, suffered from cognitive and mental health issues, and he carried a gun because of past violence against him, his grandfather says.

7. TURKEY TO RELEASE 38,000 FROM JAIL

The move to reduce its prison population apparently would make space for thousands of people who have been arrested as part of an investigation into last month's failed coup.

8. ROMANCE NOVELS CHALLENGE TRADITIONS IN NIGERIA

Dozens of young women in Kano are rebelling by writing books that rail against a strict interpretation of Islam propagated by extremist group Boko Haram.

9. POLITICAL FAMILY MAKING COMEBACK

Liz Cheney, daughter of former U.S. Vice President Dick Cheney, sweeps to victory in a crowded race for the Republican nomination for Wyoming's lone seat in the U.S. House.

10. BLIND AMERICANS CAN NOW FEEL A PART OF OLYMPICS LIKE NEVER BEFORE

NBC is airing the Rio Games in prime time with two narrators who describe what's going on in between the pronouncements from announcers.

Russia-Iran cooperation in Syria sends message to US

BRADLEY KLAPPER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Russia's use of an Iranian air base to bomb targets in Syria sends a message to Washington as it weighs a military partnership with Moscow: Join us or we'll look to your enemies.

Tuesday's missions were unprecedented. Iran allowed Russian warplanes to take off from its territory to strike opposition targets in Syria. The move came with little notice to the United States, which has watched helplessly the escalating bloodshed near Aleppo, the country's biggest city, and even offered an alliance with Russia against Islamic State and other extremist fighters as a way to get Syria's government out of the fight.

The negotiations have dragged on for weeks. Russia has grown impatient, with top officials several times suggesting an imminent deal, only to have American officials counter that the sides weren't close. The bombing runs from a base near the Iranian city of Hamedan, 175 miles southwest of Tehran, may have been a reminder to the Obama administration that Moscow could be cozying up to Iran if Washington doesn't come around.

"The Russians are showing they have options in Syria while they have Washington over a barrel on Aleppo," said Andrew Tabler, a Syria expert at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy. He said the operations also cement Russia's alliance with Iran in the region.

Russia and Iran have strongly backed Syrian President Bashar Assad's government throughout the five-and-a-half year civil war with rebel groups supported by the United States and allies such as Turkey and Saudi Arabia.

But the West has been pinning its hopes on Moscow.

When Russia intervened militarily in Syria last August, it claimed privately that its action would ultimately sideline Iran and its proxy Hezbollah force in Syria, making Assad more conciliatory in a peace process, according to U.S. and European diplomats.

The argument was one of several by Russia that the U.S. and others have clung to as a potential pathway to peace, and which they hope to test when the U.N. sets up a new round of peace talks in coming weeks, even if they accuse Russia of failing countless previous challenges by persisting in bombing Assad's more moderate opponents.

The latest Russian-Iranian coordination would suggest Tehran isn't being sidelined. It is virtually unheard of in recent Iranian history for a foreign power to use an Iranian base to stage attacks. And Russia had only used its own territory and assets inside Syria for such operations previously. If Russia is moving closer to the Assad-Iran-Hezbollah alliance, it could spell doom for Syria's besieged opposition.

Secretary of State John Kerry called Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov on Tuesday to discuss the operations. Underscoring the U.S. confusion, State Department spokesman Mark Toner told reporters that Washington was "still trying to assess what exactly they're doing."

Col. Christopher Garver, a U.S. military spokesman in Baghdad, said the Russians activated a communications link with coalition officials just ahead of the bomber mission.

They "informed us they were coming through" airspace that could potentially put them in proximity to U.S. and coalition aircraft in Iraq or Syria, he said. Asked how much advance notice the Russians gave, Garver said: "We did know in time" to maintain safety of flight.

The setup at the Iranian air base occurred very quickly, perhaps overnight, said U.S. officials, who weren't authorized to speak publicly on military matters and requested anonymity.

One U.S. military official said the Russians flew four Tu-22 Backfire bombers to the Iranian air base, along with a Russian cargo plane loaded with the munitions for the bombers, just hours before the missions. Another official said that all the aircraft were back in Russia later Tuesday, suggesting that the

action was a test or gesture, not the start of any permanent Russian presence in Iran.

Flying missions out of Iran wouldn't appear to provide an advantage, though Russian officials said it enables heavier loads and lower costs. Russia maintains significant numbers of combat aircraft inside Syria, and it has flown long-range bomber missions from southern Russia.

Syria's civil war has killed as many as a half-million people since 2011. Millions have fled as refugees, contributing to a global migration crisis. And the Islamic State has seized on the instability to become a worldwide terror threat.

Syrian rebels and opposition activists reacted angrily to the news.

The Russians "are taking advantage of the political vacuum that was left by America and Western countries that withdrew," said Paris-based Syrian opposition figure George Sabra.

The deployment in Iran comes a day after Russia's defense minister said Washington and Moscow were near agreement on the proposed military partnership. U.S. officials said no agreement was close.

The State Department's Toner said the Russian cooperation with Iran doesn't preclude the possibility of a U.S.-Russian partnership in Syria. But such an arrangement would become more difficult if it essentially meant a U.S.-Russia-Iran partnership.

Toner also suggested Russia violated last year's U.N. security Council resolution enshrining the Iran nuclear deal. The resolution prohibits the supply, sale and transfer of combat aircraft to Iran unless approved in advance by the U.N. Security Council, something he said hadn't occurred.

Russia said its planes targeted Islamic State militants and the al-Qaida-linked group formerly known as the Nusra Front in Aleppo, as well as in Deir el-Zour and Idlib, destroying five major ammunition depots, training camps and three command posts.

The Russian planes flew over Iraq, apparently without the permission of Iraq's government, a U.S. official said.

That by itself is hardly significant. Iran has flown supply and other missions over Iraq to Syria without permission. There is little Baghdad can do to stop those flights, and the U.S. has regularly turned its cheek.

Trump brags about crowd size but will it turn into votes?

JONATHAN LEMIRE, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — It's a staple of nearly every Donald Trump rally: a boast from the candidate about his massive crowd size, a claim — sometimes true and sometimes not — that thousands more outside are hoping to get in, and a belief that the turnout foreshadows victory in November.

"I actually think I'm going good, I have the biggest crowds," Trump told Fox on Tuesday, in light of sinking poll numbers. "Nobody's ever had crowds like this."

But Trump may be buying into the hype. Crowd size is frequently not a good indicator of success on Election Day — and some Republicans attribute Trump's refusal to alter his message for the general election to his insistence on measuring success by the adulation he receives from audiences he's already won over. In a general election, candidates typically broaden their message to reach the people not in the event halls, who have yet to be convinced.

"Campaigns that rely too much on anecdotal evidence like crowd sizes when looking to measure progress are easily lulled into a false sense of security," said Kevin Madden, a senior adviser on Mitt Romney's 2012 campaign. "They assume, often wrongly, that the echo effect of being surrounded by big crowds of already converted voters is automatically translating into momentum."

Boisterous, often full-house rallies have long been the lynchpin of Trump's campaign, and the Republican nominee took to Twitter in recent days to complain that the media were not giving them the credit

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they deserve.

"My rallies are not covered properly by the media. They never discuss the real message and never show crowd size or enthusiasm," Trump posted Sunday.

Madden, who does not support Trump, recalls that in the closing days of the campaign four years ago, Romney drew massive crowds on each side of Pennsylvania, one outside Philadelphia and one in Pittsburgh on Election Day.

"Based on crowd size, you'd have thought we had a good chance to win the state, but we ended up losing by about five points," Madden said. "The crowd sizes were there, but the data and the empirical evidence never really were."

Crowd size can play a useful role in developing campaign strategy. A candidate's team always searches for evidence to inform such decisions as to where and when to spend advertising money, which states the candidate should visit and how best to get voters to the polls on Election Day. Campaigns often must balance empirical evidence, like polls and organizational metrics, against anecdotal clues, like crowd size and enthusiasm.

Many Republicans underestimated Trump's success in drawing crowds early in the primaries and the depth of his support among the GOP base.

But Trump, who seems to draw energy from his rowdy crowds, has continued to make the rallies the centerpiece of his campaign, to this point eschewing television advertising and delegating his voter data operation to the Republican National Committee. He's also recently held events in staunchly Democratic states like Connecticut and Maine, using the campaign's most valuable resource — his time — on veritable Electoral College Hail Marys.

Moreover, his routine at the rallies hasn't evolved much. He still delivers red-meat promises to build a wall along the Mexican border, belittles the media and brags about his primary victories, with little attempt to widen his message to target the far more expansive general election.

"I think he plays to the crowd and that's not necessarily a good thing in a campaign where you need tens of millions of votes," said GOP strategist Mike DuHaime, who advised Trump ally Chris Christie's presidential bid. "Playing just to the crowd doesn't work."

But rallies can also provide a useful tactical tool. In 2008, Barack Obama also wowed political pundits with the size of his crowds and he had teams of staffers stationed at the venue's exits to collect their personal data and sign them up to be volunteers. The Trump team also tries to collect data but its efforts are smaller: at a recent rally in Des Moines, Iowa, about a half-dozen Trump staffers were unable to keep up with the crowd streaming past them.

Crowd size also can translate into a wave of small campaign donors. On the Democratic side this year, Bernie Sanders routinely drew bigger crowds than Hillary Clinton and dwarfed her small-donor fundraising totals even as he lost the nomination to her. Trump has also proven very successful receiving small donations, which he said made up the bulk of the \$82 million he and the party brought in last month.

But despite his usual bravado about his rallies, Trump once let slip publicly that he had some doubts about the relevance of the large, enthusiastic crowds he still draws night after night.

"We go to Oklahoma, we had 25,000 people. We had 21,000 people in Dallas. We had 35,000 people in Mobile, Alabama. We have these massive crowds," the Republican nominee said earlier this month in Jacksonville, Florida. "You've got thousands of people outside trying to get in (today), and this is one hell of a big stadium."

"I hear we're leading Florida by a bit," he said. "I don't know why we're not leading by a lot. Maybe crowds don't make the difference."

Republican Donald Trump shaking up campaign

JILL COLVIN, Associated Press

JULIE PACE, Associated Press

TETERBORO, N.J. (AP) — Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump, who has slipped in the polls in recent weeks, has shaken up his campaign again.

The billionaire real estate mogul is bringing in Stephen Bannon of Breitbart News as chief executive officer and promoting pollster Kellyanne Conway to campaign manager.

"I've known both of them for a long time. They're terrific people, they're winners, they're champs, and we need to win it," Trump told The Associated Press in a phone interview early Wednesday.

The move comes just 82 days before the November election and represents yet another overhaul of Trump's tumultuous quest for the White House.

In confirming the campaign overhaul, Trump called Bannon and Conway "big people" who can help him defeat Democrat Hillary Clinton in November.

Campaign chairman Paul Manafort, who formally took over the reins following the departure of Corey Lewandowski in June, will maintain his current title, Trump said.

Manafort deputy Rick Gates, who has been traveling often with Trump, is expected to maintain a senior role with the campaign.

The news, first reported by the Wall Street Journal, comes as opinion surveys show Trump trailing Clinton nationally and in a host of key battleground states following a difficult campaign stretch that saw him insulting the Muslim parents of a soldier who died in Iraq and temporarily refraining from endorsing House Speaker Paul Ryan, who was involved in a primary in his home state of Wisconsin.

In tapping Bannon for a top campaign role, Trump is doubling down on his outsider appeal rather than appealing more traditional Republicans. The conservative Breitbart figure has been a cheerleader for Trump's campaign for months and was critical of Republican leaders, including Ryan. Bannon is a former Goldman Sachs banker but does not bring presidential campaign experience to Trump's White House bid.

Conway joined Trump's campaign earlier this year as a senior adviser. A longtime Republican strategist and pollster, she has close ties to Trump's running mate, Indiana Gov. Mike Pence.

Trump long has resisted pleas from fellow Republicans to overhaul the flame-throwing approach on the campaign trail that powered his surge to the top of the GOP field in the primary season. Instead of working to broaden his appeal, Trump has largely hewed to the large rallies and attention-grabbing comments that appealed to the Republican Party base.

"You know, I am who I am," he told a local Wisconsin television station Tuesday. "It's me. I don't want to change. Everyone talks about, 'Oh, well you're going to pivot, you're going to.' I don't want to pivot. I mean, you have to be you. If you start pivoting, you're not being honest with people."

Conway called the moves "an expansion at a critical time in the homestretch."

Details of the new pecking order were hashed out at a lengthy senior staff meeting at Trump Tower Tuesday while Trump was on the road. Additional senior hires are expected in the next few days.

Trump, whose campaign is built on his persona as a winner, said several times Wednesday that the campaign was "doing well," and said his speech hours earlier in Wisconsin Tuesday was well-received.

"We're going to be doing something very dramatic," Trump added.

Trump's campaign announced earlier that it would finally begin airing its first ads of the general election next week in Florida, Ohio, North Carolina and Pennsylvania.

While polls have shown Clinton building a lead following the Philadelphia convention, Democrats are fearful that a depressed voter turnout might diminish support among the minority, young and female

voters who powered Obama to two victories.

Clinton said at a voter registration event at a Philadelphia high school that she's "not taking anybody anywhere for granted" in the race for the White House, saying the stakes "could not be higher."

In the Wisconsin outing Tuesday, Trump accused Clinton of "bigotry" and being "against the police," claiming that she and other Democrats have "betrayed the African American community" and pandered for votes.

"We reject the bigotry of Hillary Clinton, which panders to and talks down to communities of color and sees them only as votes — that's all they care about," the GOP nominee said in remarks delivered not far from Milwaukee — the latest city to be rocked by violence in the wake of a police shooting.

Trump has been lagging in the polls since he was crowned the GOP standard-bearer in Cleveland last month. He charged that Clinton has been on the side of the rioters in Milwaukee, declaring: "Our opponent Hillary would rather protect the offender than the victim."

"The riots and destruction that have taken place in Milwaukee is an assault on the right of all citizens to live in security and to live in peace," he said.

Clinton campaign spokeswoman Jennifer Palmieri responded with a statement early Wednesday accusing Trump of being the bigot instead.

"With each passing Trump attack, it becomes clearer that his strategy is just to say about Hillary Clinton what's true of himself. When people started saying he was temperamentally unfit, he called Hillary the same. When his ties to the Kremlin came under scrutiny, he absurdly claimed that Hillary was the one who was too close to Putin. Now he's accusing her of bigoted remarks -- We think the American people will know which candidate is guilty of the charge," she said.

Indonesian flees Filipino captors, found trapped in fishnet

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — An Indonesian sailor swam to freedom Wednesday almost two months after he was abducted from a tugboat in the southern Philippines by Abu Sayyaf militants who threatened to behead him, officials said.

Mohammad Sayfan, 28, was rescued by residents on southern Jolo Island who found him floating and trapped in fishnets along shore in a mangrove area, said military spokesman Maj. Filemon Tan.

Sayfan was one of seven crew members abducted from a tugboat near the Philippine border in June. Sixteen other foreign hostages, including nine Indonesians, are still held by the violent Muslim extremist group in the predominantly Roman Catholic nation.

Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines agreed in May to carry out coordinated patrols in a bid to thwart off kidnappings and piracy that have undermined commerce in the region.

A total of 24 Indonesian have been kidnapped by the Abu Sayyaf this year, highlighting weak security in the Celebes Sea that borders Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines. Ten of the hostages were freed after ransoms were reportedly paid.

The Philippines says it has stepped up a military offensive against the militants, who earlier this year beheaded two Canadian hostages.

Besides the Indonesians, five Malaysians, one Norwegian, a Dutchman, and at least five Filipinos are also being held by the militants.

Washington and Manila list the Abu Sayyaf, which has more than 400 fighters, as a terrorist organization.

Turkey to release 38,000 from jail; frees space for plotters

SUZAN FRASER, Associated Press

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — Turkey issued a decree Wednesday paving the way for the conditional release of some 38,000 prisoners, the justice minister said — an apparent move to reduce its prison population to make space for thousands of people who have been arrested as part of an investigation into last month's failed coup.

The government decree, issued under Turkey's three-month long state of emergency that was declared following the coup, allows the release of inmates who have two years or less to serve of their prison terms and makes convicts who have served half of their prison term eligible for parole. Some prisoners are excluded from the measures: people convicted of murder, domestic violence, sexual abuse or terrorism and other crimes against the state.

The measures would not apply for crimes committed after July 1, excluding any people later convicted of involvement in the failed July 15 coup.

Justice Minister Bekir Bozdag said on his Twitter account the measure would lead to the release of some 38,000 people. He insisted it was not a pardon or an amnesty but a conditional release of prisoners.

The government says the attempted coup, which led to at least 270 deaths, was carried out by followers of the movement led by U.S.-based Muslim cleric Fethullah Gulen who have infiltrated the military and other state institutions. Gulen has denied any prior knowledge or involvement in the coup but Turkey is demanding that the United States extradite him.

The Turkish government declared a state of emergency and launched a massive crackdown on Gulen's supporters in the aftermath of the coup. Some 35,000 people have been detained for questioning and more than 17,000 of them have been formally arrested to face trial, including soldiers, police, judges and journalists.

Tens of thousands more people with suspected links to Gulen have been suspended or dismissed from their jobs in the judiciary, media, education, health care, military and local government.

In separate decree, also issued Wednesday, the government dismissed 2,300 more officers from the police force, in addition to another 136 military officers and 196 employees from its information technology authority.

Wednesday's decrees also allow the air force to hire new pilots or take back pilots who had resigned or were discharged before the coup to replace pilots who have been arrested or dismissed for alleged participation in the coup or links to Gulen.

The government crackdown has raised concerns among European nations and human rights organizations, who have urged the Turkish government to show restraint.

Turkey's 180,000-person prisons were already filled to capacity before the crackdown on Gulen's movement, with some rights groups claiming that inmates were forced to take turns to sleep on beds. Turkey has issued several prison amnesties over the past decades to ease conditions in its prisons, but the measures proved unpopular with the public.

Bozdag insisted Wednesday that those being released would still be supervised.

"This measure is not an amnesty," Bozdag said on Twitter. "The punishment will be served outside through supervised released."

"I hope that the arrangement is beneficial to the prisoners, their loved ones, our people and our country," the minister wrote.

WHY IT MATTERS: Opioid epidemic

KATHLEEN RONAYNE, Associated Press

EDITOR'S NOTE _ One in an AP series examining issues at stake in the presidential election and how they affect people

CONCORD, N.H. (AP) — THE ISSUE: More Americans are dying from opioids than at any time in recent history, with overdose deaths hitting a peak of 28,000 in 2014. That amounts to 78 Americans dying from an opioid overdose every day, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The CDC uses opioid as an umbrella term for synthetic painkillers and for drugs derived naturally from opium (known more specifically as opiates), such a heroin.

It's not just the use of illicit opiates like heroin that is on the rise — overdose deaths from prescription painkillers have quadrupled since 1999, tracking a similar increase in the amount of these drugs being prescribed by doctors.

WHERE THEY STAND

Donald Trump sees his plans to build a wall along the Mexican border as essential to stopping the flow of illegal drugs into the country. The Drug Enforcement Administration reports the seizure of drugs at the Southern border quadrupled between 2008 and 2013. Hillary Clinton proposes spending \$10 billion to tackle the drug crisis. Her plan would send more money to states to expand drug treatment and mental health services, promote greater availability of the overdose reversal drug naloxone and support better prevention programs in schools, among other things.

WHY IT MATTERS

More than 2.4 million Americans were addicted to synthetic pain relievers or heroin in 2014, according to the latest federal survey on drug use and health. And that number excludes the millions more — family members, first responders, taxpayers — who feel the ripple effects of addiction in their daily lives.

Clinton has called drug addiction a "quiet epidemic." But it's one that's getting louder, as more and more Americans share their stories and prove that drug addiction follows no standard profile of age, race or class.

For decades, drug addiction was viewed as a criminal justice problem, not a health one. The stigma is lessening, but many states simply don't have the capability to provide treatment and recovery for people who need it, leaving police departments and emergency rooms to fill the void. Lawmakers and advocates are fighting for precious tax dollars to expand services, but the 2015 National Survey on Drug Use and Health found that just 0.9 percent of people seeking treatment for a problem related to drugs or alcohol received it.

Experts now believe the sharp increase in prescribed painkillers is to blame. People are quick to share stories of being prescribed dozens of pills for pain relief following procedures as simple as wisdom teeth removal. The strength of these medications can easily cause addiction, forcing many people to turn to a cheaper alternative — heroin — when their prescriptions run out. Roughly 75 percent of new heroin users report first using prescription opioids, the government says.

Lawmakers are beginning to take notice: At the meeting of the National Governors Association in July, 45 governors signed on to a compact aimed at tightening prescribing rules. Several attorneys general are engaged in or considering waging legal battles against major pharmaceutical companies, alleging

they played down the risks of addiction when marketing their painkillers.

At the same time, the illicit drugs people are turning to are becoming even more deadly. The synthetic painkiller fentanyl, which is up to 50 times as potent as heroin, is now being manufactured illegally. By sight, it's impossible to tell the difference between heroin and fentanyl, leaving people unaware of the deadliness of the drugs they are consuming. Northeastern and Midwestern states, such as New Hampshire and Ohio, are seeing a dramatic rise in the use of fentanyl. More than 5,000 people nationwide died from a synthetic opioid like fentanyl in 2014, and that number is only on the rise.

As most politicians know, families and communities are demanding change, and fast.

How do the blind watch the Olympics? NBC helps them hear it

TALI ARBEL, AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Two people in a recording booth deep inside a Connecticut office park are helping millions of blind Americans feel part of the Olympics like never before.

For the first time in the U.S., NBC is airing the Olympics in prime time with additional narrators who simply report what's happening on screen — a sort of closed captioning for the visually impaired. Most viewers won't even know the additional narrators are there; to hear them, you need to turn on special cable-box settings to activate their audio track. But their running blow-by-blow can open things up for the blind, who at best get an incomplete picture from traditional sportscasting that takes visuals for granted.

"I love the Olympics," says Marlaina Lieberg, 66, who's been blind since birth and has long bugged her sighted husband to describe the athletic events. "I'm so happy I'm going to be able to sit back, watch the Olympics like anybody else, know what's going on, not have to imagine or wonder. That's huge."

DESCRIBING THE SUNSET

On a recent Wednesday, narrator Norma Jean Wick opens the Olympics broadcast in a neutral, almost robotic tone, saying "Golden orange sunset in Rio de Janeiro" as music swells over a shot of the city. "Night has fallen," she continues, right after NBC's Bob Costas intones, "Aaaand here we go."

Wick and Jim Van Horne, both Canadian sports broadcasting veterans, devoted hours to studying the sports and NBC commentators' speech patterns. They aim to wedge in short sentences or even a few words amid the often breathless announcing. At one point during a beach volleyball match, Wick mostly limits herself to reciting the score — otherwise invisible to those who can't see — in-between points.

While they try not to talk over announcers, it happens. During a pause, Van Horne notes that U.S. player Kerri Walsh Jennings was waiting for the wind to die down to serve; the announcers started up again before he finished his sentence. Blind viewers say sometimes they can't hear the NBC announcers in the crosstalk.

Finding the right words can be difficult, said Wick, who keeps stacks of notes in front of her. "When you say a spike, what does that mean? When you say a tumbling pass, well, what are they doing exactly?"

CAPTIONS FOR THE BLIND

While closed captioning for the deaf today is ubiquitous, most people who aren't visually impaired have never heard of "audio description" or "video description," as this sort of narration is formally known. It was developed in the 1980s, and is now available for certain prime-time series and children's shows on the major broadcast networks and a few cable stations. Descriptions are also available in many movie theaters, on Netflix and during some live theater.

For a long time, the visually impaired didn't know how much they were missing from TV shows and movies, says Paul Schroeder, head of programs and policy at the American Foundation for the Blind. "If

you're trying to follow a program, you need to know the basis of what's going on. The car chase, the gun shots, the subtle or not-so-subtle look across the room."

But live TV events are much harder to narrate because there's no script, and as a result narrated sports events remain rare in the U.S. All that raises the level of difficulty for NBC's narrators.

The aim is to provide "what and how," says Van Horne — "what an individual is wearing, the expression on their face, how did they fall, how did they twist the ankle." Not only can the blind follow the action, they can also connect with the emotional upheavals that are as much a part of the Olympics as the sports.

Karen Gourgey, 68, the director of a center that trains blind people to use technology at Baruch College in New York, normally finds herself "bored" by the Olympics, "for obvious reasons," she says. Now, though, she's getting more specifics when medals are presented — "this one's in tears, that one's hugging, all the stupid stuff." She's learned that a gymnast used the whole floor during a tumbling routine and that swimmers perch on starting blocks before they dive into the pool.

"You can still get quite electrified," she says.

HARD-TO-SEE CONTROLS

Narration for the blind isn't always easy to find or operate on TV. Lori Scharff, a 41-year-old blind social worker on New York's Long Island, can't activate the setting herself because she'd have to navigate a TV-screen menu. She can't just leave them running all the time, either, because they share a track with Spanish-language audio that kicks in when a show isn't narrated for the blind (as most are not).

Advocates credit Comcast, which owns NBC, for producing a cable box that audibly recites menu options in a mechanical female voice. That lets the blind activate narration without help from someone who can see. All major cable and satellite TV providers are required to provide similar audio features by December 20.

It can also be hard to know what shows gets narrated. Program guides on TV don't always include that information, although many networks and blind advocacy groups track those shows online.

Liz Cheney wins primary for US House post her father held

BEN NEARY, Associated Press

CHEYENNE, Wyo. (AP) — Liz Cheney, daughter of former Vice President Dick Cheney, swept to victory in a crowded race for the Republican nomination for Wyoming's lone seat in the U.S. House — a post once held by her father.

Her victory Tuesday in the Republican primary likely signals that she will win the seat in the general election this fall. Party registration favors the GOP over Democrats better than three-to-one in Wyoming, and no Democrat has held the seat since Dick Cheney's predecessor in the 1970s.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Liz Cheney said Tuesday that she couldn't be prouder of being Dick Cheney's daughter. "Certainly we've been served well by many people in Washington, and it is very special to have been nominated to serve in the seat that my dad held," she said.

Her victory also marks a comeback from her first shot at Wyoming politics in 2014, when she brashly challenged Sen. Mike Enzi, the state's senior Republican.

Many prominent Wyoming Republicans accused Liz Cheney two years ago of being a "carpetbagger" and criticized her for challenging GOP incumbent Enzi when she had only recently moved to Wyoming from Virginia. She quickly dropped out of the race.

This time around, however, she and seven other Republicans were vying for an open House seat. Rep. Cynthia Lummis is not seeking re-election.

A former Fox News commentator and State Department official, Liz Cheney drew on her national con-

tacts in funding her primary victory. She brought in more than \$1.5 million through July, banking almost 10 times more money than her next three opponents combined.

While her opponents tried to hammer on her relatively short residency in the state, Liz Cheney herself focused her campaign largely on attacking President Barack Obama and his administration's energy policies — which she considers federal overreach — and national security policies.

She has emphasized that it's critical to Wyoming, the nation's leading coal-producing state, that the EPA roll back regulations sharply limiting emissions from coal-fired power plants. Major coal companies have declared bankruptcy in recent months, and Wyoming has seen sharp layoffs among coal industry workers.

"We've got to be sure that we save the coal industry, it's a hugely important issue for Wyoming," Liz Cheney said. "Wyoming's representative has got to be somebody who's prepared to lead that fight on a national basis, and I will do so absolutely, no matter who's in the White House."

Dick Cheney was elected five times to the U.S. House seat for Wyoming that his daughter is now seeking. But his legacy cuts both ways. Many Democrats have criticized Cheney's orchestration as vice president of the 2003 U.S. invasion of Iraq, calling it a disastrous foreign policy decision.

Asked if her candidacy serves as a way to try to address criticism of her father's role in the Iraq invasion, Liz Cheney said her campaign has been doing what's necessary to keep the U.S. safe.

"We're facing a huge number of challenges now, both in terms of the threats we face from Washington, as well as the threats to our security from radical Islamic terrorism, and those are the things I'm going to be focused on," she said.

Ryan Greene won the Democratic nomination for Wyoming's U.S. House seat and will face Cheney in the general election. Greene is a manager in his family's oilfield services company in Rock Springs.

Greene said Tuesday night he is "very excited about the way the results came in."

"This just became Wyoming versus Washington. The Cheneys are Washington," Greene said. "We've got a lot of work to do, but we're going to continue to work hard, and we're going to show the nation that our state's not for sale."

Guys on the rise: Assistants who could be head coaches soon

ERIC OLSON, AP College Football Writer

Sixteen assistant coaches in 2015 will be starting their first full seasons as FBS head coaches, with seven of them landing jobs in Power Five conferences.

The highest-profile moves had former Alabama defensive coordinator Kirby Smart going to Georgia, former Michigan DC D.J. Durkin taking over at Maryland and former Ohio State DC Chris Ash getting hired at Rutgers.

Who'll become head coaches after this season?

Here's a look, in alphabetical order, at some assistants who appear to have what it takes to run their own programs:

Dave Aranda, defensive coordinator, LSU

Les Miles hired Aranda away from Wisconsin, where the 39-year-old oversaw a Badgers defense that ranked among the top five nationally in four major categories over the last three years. Before moving to Wisconsin, he coordinated one of the country's top defenses at Utah State.

Aranda's greatest strength is his ability to relate to his players. He has a knack for making hard-to-digest concepts easy to understand, and then he turns his charges loose to make plays.

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Geoff Collins, defensive coordinator, Florida

His name was connected to the UCF opening, and he'll be in the mix other places if the Gators' defense is as good as it was last year.

Florida was so impressed with Collins in his first year under Jim McElwain that he received a \$300,000 raise, to more than \$1 million. He'll get a \$150K retention bonus if he's still in Gainesville come February.

Collins is a top-notch recruiter, and he has had an impressive career track that has taken him to Georgia Tech, Alabama, UCF, Florida International and Mississippi State.

Tee Martin, offensive coordinator, Southern California

The 38-year-old Martin is a phenomenal recruiter whose career has been on a steady ascent. He joined the Trojans' staff in 2012 as receivers coach, became pass game coordinator in 2014 and was named offensive coordinator at the end of last season.

As receivers coach, a position he still holds, Martin has tutored Biletnikoff Award winner Marqise Lee, Robert Woods, Nelson Agholor and JuJu Smith-Schuster.

Martin knows how to win, too. He was Peyton Manning's backup for two years at Tennessee and led the Volunteers to a 13-0 record and national championship as a junior in 1998.

Lincoln Riley, offensive coordinator, Oklahoma

Riley is as accomplished as any 32-year-old could hope to be in this profession. He won the 2015 Broyles Award as the nation's top assistant coach, and his Baker Mayfield-led Air Raid offense was nearly unstoppable as the Sooners made the College Football Playoff.

Riley was linked to head coaching jobs, including South Carolina, and OU extended his contract through 2018 and gave him a raise from \$500,000 to \$900,000 a year. No matter. It won't be long before the native of Muleshoe, Texas, moves on and up.

Mike Sanford, offensive coordinator, Notre Dame

Sanford was linked to the Syracuse opening last November, and Irish coach Brian Kelly knows his 33-year-old offensive coordinator will be lured away sooner than later.

Sanford proved his mettle after he lost RB Tarean Folston and QB Malik Zaire to injuries early last season. Sanford molded DeShone Kizer into an effective replacement for Zaire.

Sanford's star began rising during two stints at Stanford, under Jim Harbaugh and David Shaw, and he's got good blood lines. His father, Mike Sr., is a longtime assistant and head coach in the college ranks.

Brent Venables, defensive coordinator, Clemson

The 45-year-old Venables' name has been floated for openings over the years, and it's a surprise he's still waiting for his opportunity. He may or may not be the guy Kansas State turns to when his mentor, Bill Snyder, decides to retire for good.

Venables turns out some of the nation's best defenses year-in and year-out, and he's an excellent recruiter. In his 20 years as a full-time assistant, his teams have gone to 20 bowl games and have won 10 or more games in 15 seasons. He's got a good thing going at Clemson, and with a \$1.4 million salary, he can afford to be choosy.

Six other assistants to keep an eye on: Josh Conklin, defensive coordinator, Pittsburgh; Jimmy Lake,

co-defensive coordinator and secondary coach, Washington; Danny Langsdorf, offensive coordinator, Nebraska; Todd Orlando, defensive coordinator, Houston; Jeremy Pruitt, defensive coordinator, Alabama; Marcel Yates, defensive coordinator, Arizona.

Detroit MLS bid comes amid minor league soccer boom in area

NOAH TRISTER, AP Sports Writer

HAMTRAMCK, Mich. (AP) — Immediately after the opening kickoff, colorful smoke was already floating through the air and fans were in full voice, singing and chanting in a display reminiscent of matches in Europe and South America.

This wasn't Milan or Liverpool, though, or even Portland or Seattle. This was a fourth-tier soccer match at a renovated old stadium in Hamtramck, an enclave of Detroit.

The team is called Detroit City FC. It competes in the National Premier Soccer League and its players aren't paid, but this season the club drew about 5,000 fans a game at its new home field, turning a night at Keyworth Stadium into one of the area's most unique sports experiences. DCFC's growth is a testament to soccer's grassroots appeal in the United States, and it comes as a group led by NBA owners Dan Gilbert and Tom Gores is trying to bring a Major League Soccer franchise to Detroit.

The question now is: What will happen to DCFC if MLS shows up? And would an MLS team be able to capitalize on the soccer culture that's already here?

The answer may not be that simple.

"It's a tightrope," said Alex Wright, one of DCFC's five owners. "It's going to take some time and some conversation."

There are over 80 teams in the NPSL, representing big cities like Chicago and Boston as well as places like Fredricksburg, Virginia, and Binghamton, New York. DCFC was founded in 2012, and the ownership group felt there was enough soccer interest in the Detroit area for the project to succeed. The barriers to entry weren't exactly high. Wright says each co-owner had to kick in \$2,500 for the buy-in and a chance to own a team and build it from the ground up.

"It was something we as founders who had day jobs could do on nights and weekends, but it also allowed us the flexibility and the freedom and opportunity to kind of like, really have some fun with what kind of team we wanted to be," Wright said.

DCFC outgrew its home field and now plays at Keyworth. There's an independent supporters group — Northern Guard Supporters — and fans march to matches together from a nearby bar.

Near the entrance to the supporters' section at the stadium, there's a banner laying out some ground rules for the uninitiated. Fans who venture into that area along one of the sidelines can expect to stand the whole game, hear plenty of foul language and have smoke bombs set off around them.

"As long as you can stand the smoke and stand the swearing — and just stand for 90 minutes — you fit right in," said 35-year-old Drew Gentry, a Northern Guard co-founder.

Gentry became interested in soccer after stumbling upon a Champions League match on TV and being amazed by the fan atmosphere.

"I'm like, 'What do these people have? This is soccer, it's not supposed to be interesting. Why do these people love this sport so much?'" he said.

Gentry wanted a local version of what he'd seen, a team he and his community could throw support behind. His is just one story of how an American under 40 came to love a sport that struggled for so long to gain a foothold in this country. Now fans are gravitating toward soccer for any number of reasons — and the group putting together Detroit's MLS bid knows it.

"There's a group of people that grew up with soccer now. They're not necessarily people that grew

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up with the NFL or something else," said Matt Cullen, a principal of Gilbert-chaired Rock Ventures. "It is almost like a little bit of a counterculture kind of thing, and people enjoy it in a different way. I think it's the experience as much as the game at times."

That's certainly true at DCFC games. The players aren't exactly household names. Fans go because of the atmosphere and the excitement of being part of something that they're all helping build.

"In a more professional, traditional American setting, I think the mentality is you have to be something for everyone," Wright said. "I think what soccer is proving is that while that is true — that is one way to do it — that's not the only way to do it. To be something real for some people, is also another way to go, because we're not trying to fill a 65,000-seat stadium and we don't have 162 games a year."

MLS teams don't have to draw 65,000 fans a game either. If there is a new team in Detroit, it would be in good shape if it can enjoy the type of loyalty DCFC receives from its fans. There is precedent for that kind of smooth transition. The Portland Timbers were a successful minor league team before being elevated to the MLS level in 2011.

There's some skepticism among the DCFC die-hards. The Northern Guard website includes a list of lyrics to various fan chants, and one of them aims its profanity-laced hostilities directly at Gilbert, Gores and MLS Commissioner Don Garber.

"It's really important that everyone understand how much time and effort the supporters put into what they do," Wright said. "If you don't understand that, it's really hard to understand where they're coming from when you read what they write online or on social media. It's not vitriol if you've been spending so much of your time building something up and you're worried that it's going to be forgotten."

The MLS group has been quick to praise DCFC. Arn Tellem, who works with Gores as an executive at Palace Sports and Entertainment, said he's met with the DCFC hierarchy, and he raves about the experience at the team's games. He said DCFC and the Michigan Bucks — a Pontiac-based team that won the championship of the Premier Development League this month — have shown that there is great interest in soccer in the Detroit area. But it's not yet clear how, specifically, the MLS group and DCFC might work together.

Elevating DCFC to MLS status would be one way to try to preserve the club's charm and grassroots appeal. That's a model MLS has followed elsewhere, but Gilbert and Gores would likely have some work to do to win over the trust of some of the local fans.

An MLS team could also try to coexist with DCFC in the hope that each can in its own way help soccer grow in Detroit. There are examples of minor league teams playing in MLS cities, although those teams don't necessarily draw many fans. Portland Timbers 2 — a team in the United Soccer League — drew about 2,500 at a game Sunday, a figure that would represent a step back for a team like DCFC.

Wright says DCFC looks forward to further conversations with the MLS group about their visions for the future. As for Gentry, he said recently that nobody from the MLS bid had reached out to his supporters' group.

"I will believe an MLS team is in Detroit when they kick off their first match," he said. "Until then, it's not something that I'm going to lose sleep over, only because I've got stuff to do to grow my team — the team that's already here."

The proposed MLS expansion team could start playing in Detroit by 2020, but that still leaves DCFC plenty of time to build an even greater following. Right now, the big priority for the MLS bid is securing a new stadium for a Detroit team to play in. The group is pushing for a site in downtown Detroit, but there are potential roadblocks.

If the stadium issue is resolved and Detroit is indeed granted a team, talks between the MLS group and DCFC figure to take on much more significance.

"I think we want to be inclusive with DCFC and the Bucks and work with them, and we can learn a lot from them. I think the groups that are running these organizations are really smart and civic minded," Tellem said. "They have done an incredible job, and I think we can learn a lot from them and we will. Every time I'm with them, I leave feeling more positive that we have to do this together. We can't do this without them."

Four on the floor for Simone Biles; Bolt coasts in 200 heat

JOSH HOFFNER, Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Simone Biles closed her Rio Games with more gymnastics gold. Usain Bolt breezed through another sprint as he makes a run at one final Olympic title in his favorite race.

Bolt easily won a qualifying race Tuesday in the 200 meters, the first step in his bid for the gold Thursday. His prowess on the track is the dominant story line of the final week of the Olympics, along with Biles' resounding success in gymnastics.

"I came out here to qualify," Bolt said, "and that's what I did."

It was a wild ride Tuesday for fans of the Brazil team. Their women's soccer team and top-ranked beach volleyball duo were eliminated from the Olympics, but a lightweight boxer gave the host nation a lift with a stirring victory in his gold medal bout. Robson Conceicao whipped the packed arena into a frenzy with every jab as he claimed the country's first gold medal in boxing.

Biles won the floor exercise Tuesday for her fourth gold of the games — only the fourth Olympic gymnast to do so.

"It's been a long journey," the 19-year-old Biles said. "I've enjoyed every single moment of it."

She added a bronze in the balance beam Monday in what marked the first day of a Summer Olympics since 2008 the United States didn't win a gold medal. The U.S. had claimed gold on every day of the 2012 and 2016 Olympics.

The drought proved brief. Christian Taylor won gold in the triple jump to start the day, and teammate Will Claye came in second — a familiar result for the Americans. Taylor and Claye finished 1-2 in triple jump in London as well.

It ended up being a pretty eventful day for Claye. Moments after earning his silver, he bounded into the stands, dropped to a knee and proposed to his longtime girlfriend, hurdler Queen Harrison. She said yes.

One day after a Brazilian pulled off an upset to win the men's pole vault Monday night, the women's soccer team lost to Sweden in a shootout. The Brazil men are still alive, however, and play a soccer semifinal match against Honduras on Wednesday.

The Brazil-Sweden game had the biggest crowd ever for a women's national team match in the country, and the fans roared whenever Marta touched the ball. The charismatic forward has been one of the world's top players for more than a decade, but she has never won a major international tournament with her national team.

"This loss won't take away from all that we have done to get here," Marta said. "We have the match for the bronze medal now and we will fight until the end to get that medal."

Rio Olympic officials in Brazil have one less trouble to worry about following robberies, stray gunfire and a falling camera outside the basketball arena. The Olympic diving pool, its water turned a murky green a week ago, reverted to its usual blue Tuesday.

One off-the-field issue remains unresolved, however. Police investigating reports that American swimmer Ryan Lochte and three teammates were robbed at gunpoint so far have found no evidence sup-

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porting the account. Lochte insists he has been upfront about what happened.

Other highlights from Day 11:

MILE HIGH : Faith Kipyegon of Kenya won the women's 1,500 meters to defeat Genzebe Dibaba of Ethiopia in the latest installment of their rivalry in the race. The bronze winner was Jenny Simpson — the first American woman to ever win a medal in the event.

JAMAICA WINS AGAIN : Jamaica already swept the 100-meter sprints with victories by Usain Bolt and Elaine Thompson. Now it has a 110 hurdles champion in Omar McLeod, who finished with a time of 13.05 seconds. McLeod excelled in track at the University of Arkansas.

BRAZILIANS ON THE BEACH : Brazil sent three teams onto the sand volleyball court of Rio de Janeiro's landmark Copacabana Beach on Tuesday. The No. 1-seeded women's team, Talita and Larissa, was ousted in straight sets. Then the men's team of Alison and Bruno advanced to the gold medal match with a win over the Netherlands, led by the 6-foot-8 Alison's 12 blocks.

Americans Kerri Walsh Jennings and April Ross will play in the late semifinal against Brazil's other women's team, Agatha and Barbara, for a spot in the gold medal match.

BADMINTON BLUES : China swept all five gold medals in badminton at the 2012 London Games, but they won't this year. China won't have the same problem in table tennis — they are going for a sweep in all four events. Its women's team won gold Tuesday night.

Rape case from the past casts pallor on 'Birth of a Nation'

LINDSEY BAHR, AP Film Writers

JAKE COYLE, AP Film Writers

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A 17-year-old rape accusation and recent reports that the female accuser who continued to be haunted by the case committed suicide in 2012 has cast a shadow over Nate Parker's upcoming "The Birth of a Nation," a film that was expected to be one of the year's most important.

"The Birth of a Nation," a drama about Nat Turner's 1831 slave rebellion, has been pegged as an Academy Awards candidate since its award-winning debut at last January's Sundance Film Festival, where it fetched a record \$17.5 million acquisition price from Fox Searchlight.

"The Birth of a Nation," which Parker stars in, co-wrote, co-produced and directed, is a film some believe will help sweep in a more diverse field of Oscar nominees, along with providing a breakthrough for Parker.

But after a handful of trade interviews in which Parker discussed the rape charges he faced and was then acquitted of as a student at Penn State University in 1999, Parker's past is what's drawing headlines well before the October release of "The Birth of a Nation." Attention has only intensified with the news Tuesday from The Hollywood Reporter and Variety that the accuser, who was not named, killed herself in 2012 at the age of 30 after a few prior attempts that same year, according to court documents.

Late Tuesday, Parker posted an essay on his Facebook page in response to the latest developments.

"I myself just learned that the young woman ended her own life several years ago and I am filled with profound sorrow," Parker wrote. "I can't tell you how hard it is to hear this news. I can't help but think of all the implications this has for her family."

The woman's family issued a statement to the New York Times Tuesday as well noting that while appreciative that the men are "being held accountable for their actions" they are "dubious of the underlying motivations that bring this to present light after 17 years."

The family said they "will not take part in stoking its coals" and asked for privacy on behalf of the woman's son.

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As a 19-year-old wrestler at Penn State, Parker and his roommate Jean Celestin (who has a story credit on "The Birth of a Nation") were charged with raping the 18-year-old student. The woman said she was unconscious at the time and didn't consent to the sex. Parker, who testified that he and the woman had previously had sex, and Celestin maintained that it was consensual. He reiterated this point in his post Tuesday night.

Parker was acquitted in 2001. Celestin was convicted of sexual assault, but that was later overturned when the woman opted not to testify again for a 2005 retrial. She sued Penn State and was awarded a settlement out of court.

Her suffering reportedly continued, however.

The Hollywood Reporter on Tuesday spoke to S. Daniel Carter, a sexual assault victim advocate, who said the accuser was "tormented" by "the constant contact and fear of seeing her assailants on campus."

The accuser's brother, identified only as Johnny, also spoke about his sister.

"If I were to look back at her very short life and point to one moment where I think she changed as a person, it was obviously that point," Johnny told Variety. "The trial was pretty tough for her."

After the trial, Johnny said, his sister moved around frequently and became a mother to a son with her boyfriend.

"I think the ghosts continued to haunt her," he said.

The case largely escaped notice at Sundance, but in a pair of trade interviews published Friday, Parker confronted it straightforwardly.

"I was sure it would come up," Parker told Deadline. "I stand here, a 36-year-old man, 17 years removed from one of the painful moments in my life. And I can imagine it was painful for everyone. I was cleared of everything, of all charges. I've done a lot of living, and raised a lot of children. I've got five daughters and a lovely wife."

Parker's Facebook post took on a graver tone. He noted that it was not an attempt to "solve this with a statement" but merely a response to the moment.

"I cannot change what has happened. I cannot bring this young woman who was someone else's daughter, someone's sister and someone's mother back to life," he wrote. "I have tried to conduct myself in a way that honors my entire community — and will continue to do this to the best of my ability."

In the bright spotlight of Hollywood's awards season, far less has hurt a film's chances with Oscar voters. On the other hand, Parker wasn't found guilty, and he has faced the case more directly than some Hollywood stars have in the past.

"I have never run from this period in my life and I never ever will," he wrote.

A lot is on the line for Fox Searchlight, which paid more for "The Birth of a Nation" than any previous Sundance film. The movie's striking poster features Parker as Turner with a noose made out of an American flag. The film will play in September at the Toronto International Film Festival.

In an earlier statement, Fox Searchlight, which has not yet responded to the latest developments, said: "Fox Searchlight is aware of the incident that occurred while Nate Parker was at Penn State. We also know that he was found innocent and cleared of all charges. We stand behind Nate and are proud to help bring this important and powerful story to the screen."

Trump accuses Clinton of 'bigotry,' says she opposes police

KEN THOMAS, Associated Press

JILL COLVIN, Associated Press

WEST BEND, Wis. (AP) — Donald Trump on Tuesday accused rival Hillary Clinton of "bigotry" and being "against the police," claiming that she and other Democrats have "betrayed the African American community" and pandered for votes.

"We reject the bigotry of Hillary Clinton, which panders to and talks down to communities of color and sees them only as votes — that's all they care about," the GOP nominee said in remarks delivered not far from Milwaukee — the latest city to be rocked by violence in the wake of a police shooting.

Trump, who is lagging behind in the polls, accused Clinton of being on the side of the rioters, declaring: "Our opponent Hillary would rather protect the offender than the victim."

"The riots and destruction that have taken place in Milwaukee is an assault on the right of all citizens to live in security and to live in peace," he said.

Clinton campaign spokeswoman Jennifer Palmieri responded with a statement early Wednesday accusing Trump of being the bigot instead.

"With each passing Trump attack, it becomes clearer that his strategy is just to say about Hillary Clinton what's true of himself. When people started saying he was temperamentally unfit, he called Hillary the same. When his ties to the Kremlin came under scrutiny, he absurdly claimed that Hillary was the one who was too close to Putin. Now he's accusing her of bigoted remarks -- We think the American people will know which candidate is guilty of the charge," she said.

Trump's remarks, delivered via teleprompter in a rare departure from his usual freewheeling rally remarks, came after Clinton vowed Tuesday to conduct a national security and foreign policy that Americans could be proud of.

"It just absolutely bewilders me when I hear Donald Trump try to talk about national security," Clinton said, pointing to Vice President Joe Biden's dissection of Trump's foreign policy at a Pennsylvania event Monday. "What (Trump) often says hurts us. It sends the wrong message to friend and foe alike."

Turning to the U.S. Olympic team, she said, "Team USA is showing the world what this country stands for."

Trump said in a speech Monday that the country's national security requirements demanded "extreme" vetting of immigrants seeking admission to the United States, pointing to the threat of the Islamic State group and terrorist elements.

Clinton had said Monday that the Milwaukee protests showed that the nation had "urgent work to do to rebuild trust between police and communities" and said "everyone should have respect for the law and be respected by the law."

In an interview on Fox News Channel, Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker accused Clinton of "inflaming the situation" with her comments.

"I think people understand in that neighborhood and Sherman Park and in Milwaukee, they want law enforcement to step up and protect them," he said, adding that "statements like that" from Clinton and a "lack of leadership" from President Barack Obama "only inflame the situation."

Milwaukee's Sherman Park neighborhood erupted in chaos Saturday night after a black suspect was fatally shot by a black Milwaukee police officer. Businesses burned, gunshots rang out and police in riot gear were pelted with rocks and other objects. The violence continued, to a lesser degree, on Sunday night.

On Tuesday, Trump seized on the riots, accusing Clinton of sympathizing with protesters, who have

complained of systemic racism and inequality at the hands of police.

Trump, who has so far proven deeply unpopular with black voters, made a direct appeal to them Tuesday: "I'm asking for the vote of every African American citizen struggling in our country today who wants a different and much better future."

Democrats, he claimed, have pushed policies that exacerbate poverty and crime.

"The Democratic Party has failed and betrayed the African American community," he said.

Trump has stoked tensions during his campaign. He has accused Mexico of sending rapists across the border, has feuded with the Muslim-American parents of an Army captain killed in Iraq and has proposed to suspend immigration by Muslims.

Trump began his visit to the city with a meeting with local law enforcement officers at the Milwaukee County War Memorial Center on Lake Michigan. Among those present were Milwaukee County Sheriff David Clarke, who penned an op-ed Monday blaming liberal Democrats and the media for the unrest that has rocked the city.

He told Fox News that the shooting in Milwaukee may have occurred because the officer had a gun to his head.

"Who can have a problem with that?" Trump said. "If it is true, then people shouldn't be rioting."

Trump's campaign also announced Tuesday that it will finally begin airing its first ads of the general election next week in Florida, Ohio, North Carolina and Pennsylvania.

While polls have shown Clinton building a lead following the Philadelphia convention, Democrats are fearful that a depressed voter turnout might diminish support among the minority, young and female voters who powered Obama to two victories.

Clinton said at a voter registration event at a Philadelphia high school that she's "not taking anybody anywhere for granted" in the race for the White House, saying the stakes "could not be higher."

Southern California fire burns at least a dozen buildings

JUSTIN PRITCHARD, Associated Press

SUDHIN THANAWALA, Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A wildfire broke out Tuesday and spread at a staggering pace in every direction through drought-parched canyons east of Los Angeles, burning at least a dozen buildings — including some homes — and prompting evacuation orders for entire communities.

The blaze that began as a small patch of flame next to Interstate 15 in the Cajon Pass had scorched 15,000 acres of the San Bernardino Mountains. By nightfall, it had churned up and over ridges and was descending into the Mojave Desert.

"The smoke is on the desert floor," said Eric Sherwin of the San Bernardino County Fire Department.

Snaking walls of flame rising 50 to 100 feet high turned nearly two dozen square miles of chaparral to ashes, along with outbuildings and homes in the ranchlands 60 miles east of Los Angeles.

"I can confirm that we've lost structures, both residential and commercial," Sherwin said at the scene of a hard-hit cluster of ranches. "I'm looking up here and I'm seeing buses, I'm seeing outbuildings, I'm seeing houses."

At least a dozen buildings had burned, including the Summit Inn, an historic diner near Interstate 15, he said.

Mandatory evacuation calls went out to 34,506 homes with more than 82,600 people, ranging for the ski resort of Wrightwood to the sprawling high desert town of Phelan, with more than 14,000 residents.

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"This fire is burning in significantly different terrains at multiple elevation levels," making it difficult to fight, Sherwin said.

Hundreds of animals, including dogs and horses, also were evacuated.

The flames were fueled by thick stands of drought-stricken brush in the canyons and grass at lower elevations. The flames burned faster in the grassy areas, making them less likely to burn homes but also making them more vulnerable to wind shifts, Sherwin said.

The fire forced a shutdown of Interstate 15, leaving commuters stranded for hours.

Blue Mountain Farms, a horse ranch in Phelan, was in the path of the fire — just as it was for another fire in the area a year ago.

"Breathing smoke again, just like last year," Shannon Anderson, a partner in the ranch, said as she panted into the telephone. "It's raining ash."

Ranch hands used hoses to wet down fences and anything else that could burn.

Six firefighters were briefly trapped by flames at a home where the occupants had refused to leave, forcing the crew to protect the house, fire officials said.

"We were fully engulfed in smoke," county firefighter Cody Anderson told KCBS-TV. "It was really hard just to see your hand in front of your face."

"We just hunkered down and sat there and waited for the fire to blow over," he said.

Anderson and another firefighter were treated for minor injuries.

Gov. Jerry Brown quickly declared a state of emergency in the fire area, freeing up special resources and funds for the firefight and recovery.

As that fire surged, a major blaze north of San Francisco was fading, and about 4,000 people in the town of Clearlake were allowed to return home.

Their relief, however, was tempered with anger at a man who authorities believe set the blaze that wiped out several blocks of a small town over the weekend along with 16 smaller fires dating back to last summer.

Investigators in Northern California said Tuesday they had been building a case against the suspected arsonist, 40-year-old construction worker Damin Anthony Pashilk, for more than a year but did not have enough evidence to make an arrest until the weekend blaze ripped through Lower Lake.

Nearly a decade ago, Pashilk was an inmate firefighter while serving time on drug possession and firearms charges, according to California corrections department spokeswoman Vicky Waters. He was completing a five-year sentence when he was assigned to fight wildfires for four months in 2007.

The fire destroyed 175 homes, Main Street businesses and other structures in the working-class town of Lower Lake.

"What I'd do to him, you don't want to know," said Butch Cancilla, who saw his neighbor's home catch fire as he fled on Sunday. Cancilla still doesn't know the fate of his own home and spoke at a center for evacuees set up at a high school.

"A lot of people want to hang him high," his wife, Jennie, added.

An attorney listed as representing Pashilk did not return a call requesting comment. Pashilk is scheduled to be arraigned Wednesday.

Roughly 1,600 firefighters were making progress on the blaze as it burned through wilderness. It was 34 percent contained.

Bolt advances, Russian qualifies and an engagement at track

EDDIE PELLIS, AP National Writer

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — The repeat one-two American finish in the triple jump, the Jamaican gold medal in hurdles and Jenny Simpson's unprecedented bronze in the 1,500 meters were only part of the story in Olympic track and field Tuesday — and maybe not the best part.

The midpoint of the nine-day program at Olympic Stadium was a day for diamond rings and making friends, a one-of-a-kind Russian hello and a surprising Brazilian farewell. And, of course, a daily dose of doping news that was more than offset by a speedy cameo from Usain Bolt.

Bolt was on the track early for his 200-meter qualifying heat — a no-fuss 20.28-second ramble around the curve that barely raised his blood pressure.

"I'm not an early-morning person," Bolt proclaimed, shortly after winning his heat, which actually started at the crack of 12:46 p.m.

But morning seemed like the perfect time for American Will Claye to put an exclamation point on one of his greatest moments. Newly minted with his second straight Olympic silver medal in the triple jump — countryman Christian Taylor won gold, also just as in 2012 — Claye clambered over the barrier separating the track from the stands, climbed a few rows to meet his girlfriend, bent down on one knee and popped the question.

Queen Harrison, an Olympic hurdler in 2008, said yes.

"When I woke up this morning, I was like, 'Today's going to be the best day of my life,'" Claye said.

Omar McLeod certainly felt the same.

His win in 13.05 seconds over the 110-meter hurdles in the evening's final event made it three gold medals on the straightaway for Jamaica so far. He beat Orlando Ortega of Spain by .12 seconds. Dimitri Bascou of France took third, and University of Oregon football player Devon Allen finished fifth.

"They harness medals," McLeod said of his country's sprint stars. "You want to do the same thing. It's contagious. You want to feel how it feels. I felt how it feels."

In the evening's other big race, Faith Kipyegon of Kenya finished the women's 1,500 meters in 4 minutes, 8.92 seconds to beat out Genzebe Dibaba of Ethiopia, a flip-flop from last year's world championships. Simpson took bronze to become the first American woman to medal in the event.

"Hopefully, every American watching my race tonight, I want them to think they can take a small piece of ownership in this medal," Simpson said.

Other gold medalists were high jumper Derek Drouin of Canada and discus thrower Sandra Perkovic of Croatia, who twice was a single throw from elimination but came through both times and defended her Olympic title.

Yet, like many of the best moments on this emotion-packed day, there were no medals on the line when long jumper Darya Klishina finally showed up at the Olympics. During warmups, Klishina unzipped her jacket and revealed a red shirt with the word "Russia" emblazoned in bright white lettering. She's the only competitor wearing that uniform at this stadium, due to a doping scandal that led to the ban of Russia's other 67 track and field entrants.

Never introduced by the PA announcer or acknowledged in any way — booing or cheering — by the crowd, Klishina jumped 6.64 meters to make it through qualifying and will have a chance for a medal Wednesday.

"Last week, it was a really tough and really hard week for me mentally. I was waiting for the decision and I could not practice, I just did warmup," she said. "I would like to have a big Russian team around me, as usual, but unfortunately I'm here alone, and this is a great responsibility."

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But there was more bad news for the Russians. Around the time the evening session began, the International Olympic Committee stripped the country's 2008 women's 4x100 relay team of its gold medal, saying one of the sprinters tested positive in one of the many samples being reanalyzed this summer.

Back on the field, the sparse morning crowd saw one shocker: Brazilian Fabiana Murer was expected to contend for a pole vault medal, which would have gone nicely with the surprise gold that Thiago Braz da Silva won in the men's competition the night before. But Murer, the silver medalist at the world championships last year, couldn't clear 4.55 meters in her first three attempts and was gone before noon.

Da Silva's return to the stadium for the medals ceremony reignited an ugly episode from the previous night. The French runner-up, Renaud Lavillenie, was roundly booed when his name was announced for the silver medal, much the way he heard jeers the night before as he prepared for the jump that decided the meet. The French press attache said Lavillenie was in tears afterward.

Still, over the rest of the day, the Olympic spirit was alive and well, and no story told it better than this:

Midway through women's 5,000-meter qualifying, American Abbey D'Agostino and New Zealander Nikki Hamblin got tangled and fell hard onto the track.

Hamblin stayed down, dazed. D'Agostino popped back up. But instead of forging ahead, she walked over to Hamblin, put a hand on her shoulder and said, "Get up. We have to finish this," then hoisted her to her feet to restart the run.

Turned out, D'Agostino took the worst of it. She told Hamblin to run ahead, and when Hamblin reached the finish, she waited for her new friend. They exchanged a warm hug before the American got carted off in a wheelchair.

"I'm never going to forget that moment," Hamblin said. "When someone asks me what happened in Rio in 20 years' time, that's my story."

Hours later, race officials sent out a simple alert: The Track Referee, after examining the video of the race, was advancing both women into Friday's final. They offered no explanation. They really didn't have to.

Romances by women authors in Nigeria challenge traditions

MICHELLE FAUL, Associated Press

KANO, Nigeria (AP) — Nestled among vegetables, plastic kettles and hand-dyed fabric in market stalls are the signs of a feminist revolution: Piles of poorly printed books by women that advocate forcefully against conservative Muslim traditions such as child marriage and quick divorce.

They are part of a flourishing literary movement centered in the ancient city of Kano, in northern Nigeria, where dozens of young women are rebelling through romance novels. Hand-written in the Hausa language, the romances now run into thousands of titles. Many rail against a strict interpretation of Islam propagated in Nigeria by the extremist group Boko Haram, which on Sunday posted video showing dozens of the 218 girls militants abducted from a remote school in April 2014.

"We write to educate people, to be popular, to touch others' lives, to touch on things that are happening in our society," says author Hadiza Nuhu Gudaji, whose views have gained a recognition unusual for women in her society.

Gudaji's novellas are so popular that she is invited to give advice on radio talk shows. She describes how she was able to influence the future of a 15-year-old who called in, begging the novelist to persuade her father not to force her into marriage.

"We said: 'The father of this girl, you are listening to us, you hear what your girl is saying,'" Gudaji recounts. "If you force her, maybe the marriage will not end so well, maybe the girl will run away and

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come to a bad end.”

A few weeks later, the girl called to say thank you, and that she was back in school — a striking example of the kind of power the author wields.

The novellas are derogatorily called “littattafan soyayya, meaning “love literature,” Kano market literature or, more kindly, modern Hausa literature. Daily readings on about 20 radio stations make them accessible to the illiterate.

“It’s a quiet revolution,” says Ado Ahmed Gidan Dabino, a male novelist, essayist, actor and head of the Kano branch of the Nigerian Writers’ Association. “Nothing hard-hitting, but small, small, and gradually challenging.”

They have become so popular that young girls call in to say they’re learning to read because they want to follow more stories. That is no minor feat in a region that has more children out of school than almost anywhere on earth.

In northeast Nigeria, the birthplace of Boko Haram, only one in five girls has had any formal education. Parents routinely pull 13- and 14-year-olds out of school to get married, and even the name Boko Haram means “Western education is sinful.”

Boko Haram denounces the Western influences that are inextricably entwined with the romance genre — an argument Gudaji firmly rejects. Her 16-year-old son was blinded in one eye and took seven bullets during a 2014 Boko Haram attack on Kano’s Grand Mosque. Boko Haram has also kidnapped girls from the Chibok school and married them off to militants.

“What they are preaching and doing is not in the Quran, it’s un-Islamic,” she says, waving a hand with a flower painted into the palm in violet-colored henna. “They are not really against education — their problem with the education of girls (masks) their own agenda.”

Although the romance industry caters largely to women, it’s often men who profit. The best-known reader on the radio is a man, journalist Ahmad Isa Koko, who raises his voice an octave to imitate a woman’s.

Book hawker Adamu Said buys 70 novellas at the market one recent day, boasting that he can deliver them via motorbike to villages inaccessible by car. He purchases them for about 130 naira (65 cents) and sells them for 200, and has been doing so for 12 years.

“I make a comfortable living,” says the 30-year-old, who makes enough to support his wife and 6-year-old boy.

The Maharazu Bookshop has piles of paperback novels reaching to the ceiling, some gathering dust on the floor. Two teenage girls look at posters of just-published books but are unable to read the titles. They say they just like the pictures.

Owner Suleiman Maharazu is going through a list from a middle-aged woman reader who is too shy to be interviewed without the permission of her absent husband. They have titles that translate as *The Importance of Love*, *Big Tragedy*, *Your Face is Your Passion*, *The Beauty of a Woman is in Cooking*, and *The Woman Who Lost Control*.

“I don’t read them, I just sell them,” says Maharazu.

Only a couple of the Hausa novels have been translated into English. *Sin is a Puppy that Follows You Home* was translated by Indian publishers and subsequently made into a Bollywood movie. The book is available on amazon.com, which describes it as “an Islamic soap opera complete with polygamous households, virtuous women, scheming harlots, and black magic.” Author Balaraba Ramat Yakubu, a veteran founder of the movement, was herself a child bride twice, after her first husband returned her to her family, and she only learned to read and write as an adult.

Critics say the novellas give girls unrealistic expectations, inspire rebellion and are un-Islamic. The

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most famous disgraced book is "Matsayin Lover," about lesbian love at a girls' boarding school, dating back to 1998. Abdulla Uba Adamu says his own friends and fellow writers forced him to remove the book from the market, though he insists it reflects reality.

The books may sound dramatic, but they often mirror life. In one recent Kano court case, a prosecutor sought the death sentence for a girl forced into marriage at 13 to a 38-year-old man whom she poisoned and killed. A human rights lawyer managed to get the girl freed, but her family rejected her because they had to return the bride price paid for her.

Sometimes the reaction is violent. Last year, one young writer was badly beaten. Young men gang-raped another in her home after she published a book about women's rights in politics, according to Gidan Dabino.

Some books are also banned or censored for steamy content. Gudaji says the Censorship Board has seized many books from the market. She hasn't had problems because she's careful.

"If I want to write about a husband and wife, there is a limitation," she explains. "A kiss is allowed but nothing deeper, or I will be fighting with that Censorship Board."

Gudaji has an iPad and smartphone, but says she writes best by hand, lying on her stomach on her bed. The completed story is taken to a business center, where a clerk types it up and puts it on a memory stick. With that, she's ready to go to a bookseller or publisher and bargain. Sometimes, a bookseller will buy a book and have it published himself. Often, however, the writers pay a printer and then take the books to a seller.

The romances are cheaply printed with covers of photo-shopped stars from Nollywood, Nigeria's burgeoning film industry, or Bollywood, the Indian variety some writers are accused of plagiarizing. Many writers end up losing money.

Gudaji's first novel challenged a tradition where poor rural parents will send a child to family members in the city, hoping the child will be educated. Often they are turned into domestic slaves instead, ill-treated and raped by men in the home.

Her second novel addresses the scourge of divorce and how to deal with problematic husbands. In northern Nigeria, a man can divorce a woman simply by pronouncing three times, "I divorce you." When that happens, the former wife leaves alone and may not know what has happened to her children.

Not all the romances challenge the status quo. They range from the universal Cinderella story of a poor girl marrying a prince to how to behave when your husband takes a second wife.

And even for Gudaji, tradition still holds. Happily married, she still has to seek the permission of her husband to allow two male journalists into her home. She was not a child bride, she insists, though she is 38 and her oldest daughter, Khadija, is nearly 21. Khadija is studying physics at Kano's Northwestern University.

Gudaji explains the role of a dutiful daughter when parents want to arrange an unwelcome marriage.

"A girl may love a boy but if they don't suit, you have to stop her, and a girl has to obey her parents — 100 percent," she says, looking at her daughter and brooking no argument. "She must obey your rules and regulations."

Abduction of Mexican drug lord's son could unleash violence

CHRISTOPHER SHERMAN, Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — A "gutsy" move by a rising Mexican drug cartel to abduct a son of imprisoned drug lord Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman is raising alarms of a possible wave of bloodshed as it challenges his Sinaloa Cartel.

The grab appeared to be the latest blow aimed at undermining the jailed drug boss, coming shortly

after reports that gunmen invaded the home of his mother in northern Sinaloa state.

Jalisco state Attorney General Eduardo Almaguer confirmed Tuesday night that 29-year-old Jesus Alfredo Guzman Salazar was among a half-dozen men abducted from a restaurant in the Pacific resort of Puerto Vallarta this week. He said the kidnappers were from the rival Jalisco New Generation cartel.

The Jalisco gang's power and reach have grown rapidly in recent years, often in direct competition with Guzman's cartel, which has long been considered the strongest criminal organization in Mexico.

"It could indicate an escalation," Samuel Logan, managing partner at the business and security consulting firm Southern Pulse, said of the kidnapping. "That's a pretty gutsy move."

Almaguer said seven armed men interrupted a celebration by 16 people at the upscale La Leche restaurant in Puerto Vallarta's hotel zone around 1 a.m. Monday. They separated the nine women to one side and took away the seven men, one of whom apparently escaped, he said. Authorities said they had not heard of anyone demanding a ransom.

The Jalisco cartel made a name for itself with brazen attacks on authorities in Jalisco, but it has also established itself in areas as distant as the Gulf state of Veracruz and Baja California Sur.

"It doesn't surprise me that they would push to escalate this to the next level," Logan said. "And if anything I think it will be the next week to 10 days are going to confirm that. These guys aren't going to wait around to push back."

It would be the latest sign the Sinaloa cartel's dominance is not what it once was. "El Chapo" purportedly ran affairs from prison until his second escape in 2015, but since being recaptured has been kept under stricter security measures and is currently in prison in the northern border city of Juarez.

Other affronts against the legendary drug capo have been reported in recent months. In June, local media said an armed gang broke into the home of Guzman's mother and stole vehicles and other goods.

"There is a war right now for control of the Sinaloa cartel and a central theme in that war is the issue of attacks on his family," said Raul Benitez, a security specialist who teaches political science at the National Autonomous University of Mexico.

Jesus Alfredo Guzman has long been on the radar of authorities. In 2009, he was indicted on U.S. drug trafficking charges in Chicago along with his father and other Sinaloa cartel leaders.

In 2012, the U.S. Treasury Department designated him under the Foreign Narcotics Kingpin Designation Act as assisting his father in drug trafficking. That same year, Mexican marines mistakenly arrested a used car salesman and presented him to the press as Jesus Alfredo.

Almaguer said authorities were still working to confirm the identities of two of the six men taken. Rumors continued to swirl that Jesus Alfredo's older brother, Ivan Archivaldo Guzman, was also abducted.

Andres Granados, a lawyer representing their father, said he had no information about the abductions.

If Ivan Archivaldo also turns out to be one of those taken, the kidnappers would have two of the sons rumored to be taking over parts of El Chapo's empire.

"People have information about the family's movements and they want to destroy the family," said Benitez.

Veteran prosecutor to step in for convicted attorney general

MARC LEVY, Associated Press

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — The man who will take over the duties of Pennsylvania's convicted attorney general on Wednesday is a veteran prosecutor who has handled high-profile cases in suburban Philadelphia, pursued political ambitions and emerged as a central figure in the sexual assault case against Bill Cosby.

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Bruce L. Castor Jr. will take the oath Wednesday to become acting attorney general, five months after an embattled Kathleen Kane hired him into the position of "solicitor general" that she specially created for him, including a waiver that allowed him to keep his private law practice. Kane, a Democrat, announced she would resign Wednesday, two days after a jury convicted her of abusing the powers of the state's top law enforcement office by leaking secret grand jury information to smear a rival and lying under oath to cover it up.

Castor, 54, is a former Republican district attorney from Montgomery County. He entered Kane's office amid her battles with top aides, spawned, in part, by the unprecedented situation of her law license being suspended by the state Supreme Court. Castor became first deputy attorney general last month.

Castor already has assumed responsibility for big decisions at the attorney general's office, including declining to appeal a judge's dismissal of some criminal charges against three former Penn State administrators over their handling of the Jerry Sandusky child sex abuse scandal.

Before she announced her resignation Tuesday, Castor advised Kane that it would be "very difficult" for her to continue in her position as attorney general, given her conviction, he told reporters.

Castor, however, received no pledges of support Tuesday from Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf or the state's top lawmakers. Wolf has the authority to appoint a replacement to Kane, with two-thirds of the Senate's approval, for the five months until a successor who is picked in the November election is sworn in Jan. 17.

The matter was under discussion with senators, although Wolf's office said no decision had been made about whether to nominate a placeholder.

For his part, Castor spoke with reporters for more than an hour Tuesday at the agency's Harrisburg headquarters, defending the capabilities of the attorney general's office, despite two years of turmoil under Kane, and calling himself the right man for the job he had once sought.

"I doubt that there's anybody in all of Pennsylvania that has more experience and brings more knowledge to the game than me, which is I think why I was sought out in the first place," Castor said.

He called himself someone who speaks candidly, tries to do what's right and has made decisions independent of his boss, Kane.

"It's very difficult for me to be told what to do," Castor said.

Castor served for more than a decade as a staff prosecutor in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania's third most populous county, before he ran successfully for district attorney. He served two terms in that office and another two terms as county commissioner. He ran for district attorney again last fall, but lost to Kevin Steele, the man who ultimately led the prosecution's case against Kane.

In 2004, Castor ran for attorney general, losing in an expensive and hotly contested Republican primary to Tom Corbett. In 2013, he explored a run for governor, warning that Republicans were otherwise doomed to back an unpopular incumbent — Corbett — who could not win re-election. He was right: Corbett lost badly in 2014 to Wolf. But Castor abandoned any plan for a campaign, saying he could not drum up enough support to challenge a sitting governor.

Castor also has been a central figure in the sexual assault case against Bill Cosby.

He has said that he had promised not to charge Cosby a decade ago when, as Montgomery County district attorney, he investigated a former Temple University employee's claim that the entertainer had molested her at his home. But in February, a judge in the Cosby case rejected his claim.

Asian stocks mostly higher after Wall Street decline

JOE McDONALD, AP Markets Writer

BEIJING (AP) — Asian stock markets were mostly higher Wednesday after Wall Street declined. Shares in China were mixed after leaders approved a plan to give foreign investors more access to Chinese equities through Hong Kong.

KEEPING SCORE: Hong Kong's Hang Seng gained 0.5 percent to 23,016.18 points and Tokyo's Nikkei 225 advanced 0.5 percent to 16,679.89. Seoul's Kospi added 0.9 percent to 2,017.94 and Sydney's S&P-ASX 200 rose 0.4 percent to 5,492.40. The Shanghai Composite Index shed 0.1 percent to 3,105.12. Benchmarks in New Zealand and Malaysia advanced while Taiwan and Singapore declined.

WALL STREET SLIDE: U.S. stocks slid as investors sold phone company and utility shares. Stocks have wavered lately as investors review mixed reports about the U.S. economy, trying to get a sense of its health. On Tuesday, the Federal Reserve said U.S. factories cranked out more autos, machinery and chemicals in July, which suggests manufacturers might be recovering, though growth is little changed from a year ago. The Commerce Department said the pace of home construction grew by the most since February. The Dow Jones industrial average lost 84.03 points, or 0.5 percent, to 18,552.02. The Standard & Poor's 500 index slid 12 points, or 0.5 percent, to 2,178.15. The Nasdaq composite fell 34.90 points, or 0.7 percent, to 5,227.11.

HONG KONG STOCK LINK: China's Cabinet announced approval of an initiative that would give foreign investors more access to Chinese stocks by linking exchanges in Hong Kong and the mainland city of Shenzhen. Hong Kong is Chinese territory but its financial system is open to foreign investors while mainland markets are sealed off from global capital flows. The Chinese premier said the move will help to reinforce Hong Kong's status as a financial center, and it helped to boost sentiment there on Wednesday. But analysts said the influx of foreign money into Chinese stocks is likely to be modest. A similar measure to link Hong Kong with the Shanghai stock exchange took effect in 2014. Shares in Shenzhen were higher on Wednesday.

FED WATCH: Investors looked ahead to Wednesday's release of notes from the U.S. Federal Reserve's July meeting for insight into the debate among board members over when to raise rates. One member of the policy-making board, William Dudley, said earlier it was premature to rule out further tightening this year and another member, Dennis Lockhart, said Tuesday there could be two hikes in 2016. The Fed's earlier decision to hold off raising rates has weakened the dollar, helping exporters.

CURRENCY: The dollar gained to 100.57 yen from Tuesday's 100.33 yen. The euro edged down to \$1.1274 from \$1.1276.

ENERGY: Benchmark U.S. crude shed 22 cents to \$46.35 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract rose 84 cents on Tuesday to \$46.58. Brent crude, used to price international oils, tumbled 34 cents to \$48.89 in London. It added 88 cents the previous session to \$49.23 per barrel.

Today in History The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Wednesday, Aug. 17, the 230th day of 2016. There are 136 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Aug. 17, 1807, Robert Fulton's North River Steamboat began heading up the Hudson River on its successful round trip between New York and Albany.

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On this date:

In 1863, Federal batteries and ships began bombarding Fort Sumter in Charleston harbor during the Civil War, but the Confederates managed to hold on despite several days of pounding.

In 1915, a mob in Cobb County, Georgia, lynched Jewish businessman Leo Frank, 31, whose death sentence for the murder of 13-year-old Mary Phagan had been commuted to life imprisonment. (Frank, who'd maintained his innocence, was pardoned by the state of Georgia in 1986.)

In 1943, the Allied conquest of Sicily during World War II was completed as U.S. and British forces entered Messina.

In 1945, Indonesian nationalists declared their independence from the Netherlands. The George Orwell novel "Animal Farm," an allegorical satire of Soviet Communism, was first published in London by Martin Secker & Warburg.

In 1962, East German border guards shot and killed 18-year-old Peter Fechter, who had attempted to cross the Berlin Wall into the western sector.

In 1969, Hurricane Camille slammed into the Mississippi coast as a Category 5 storm that was blamed for 256 U.S. deaths, three in Cuba.

In 1978, the first successful trans-Atlantic balloon flight ended as Maxie Anderson, Ben Abruzzo and Larry Newman landed their Double Eagle II outside Paris.

In 1982, the first commercially produced compact discs, a recording of ABBA's "The Visitors," were pressed at a Philips factory near Hanover, West Germany.

In 1985, more than 1,400 meatpackers walked off the job at the Geo. A. Hormel and Co.'s main plant in Austin, Minnesota, in a bitter strike that lasted just over a year.

In 1987, Rudolf Hess, the last member of Adolf Hitler's inner circle, died at Spandau Prison at age 93, an apparent suicide.

In 1996, the Reform Party announced Ross Perot had been selected to be its first-ever presidential nominee, opting for the third-party's founder over challenger Richard Lamm.

In 1999, more than 17,000 people were killed when a magnitude 7.4 earthquake struck Turkey.

Ten years ago: In a lawsuit brought by the American Civil Liberties Union, a federal judge in Detroit ruled that President George W. Bush's warrantless surveillance program was unconstitutional. (A divided federal appeals court threw out the lawsuit in July 2007, and the U.S. Supreme Court later let the appeals court decision stand.) President Bush signed new rules to prod companies into shoring up their pension plans. Jordan became the first Arab state to send a fully accredited ambassador to Iraq.

Five years ago: Vice President Joe Biden arrived in Beijing to meet with his Chinese counterpart, Xi Jinping.

One year ago: A bomb exploded within a central Bangkok shrine that was among the city's most popular tourist spots, killing at least 20 people and injuring more than 100. (Two men are facing trial for the bombing, but one has maintained he was tortured to obtain a confession.) The National Labor Relations Board dismissed a historic ruling that Northwestern University football players were school employees entitled to form the nation's first union of college athletes. Actress-dancer Yvonne Craig, 78, who played the sexy, crime-fighting Batgirl in the 1960s TV hit "Batman," died in Los Angeles.

Today's Birthdays: Former Chinese president Jiang Zemin (jahng zuh-MEEN') is 90. Author V.S. Naipaul is 84. Former MLB All-Star Boog Powell is 75. Actor Robert DeNiro is 73. Movie director Martha Coolidge is 70. Rock musician Gary Talley (The Box Tops) is 69. Actor/screenwriter/producer Julian Fellowes is 67. Rock musician Sib Hashian is 67. Actor Robert Joy is 65. International Tennis Hall of Famer Guillermo Vilas is 64. Rock singer Kevin Rowland (Dexy's Midnight Runners) is 63. Rock musician Colin

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Moulding (XTC) is 61. Country singer-songwriter Kevin Welch is 61. Olympic gold medal figure skater Robin Cousins is 59. Singer Belinda Carlisle is 58. Author Jonathan Franzen is 57. Actor Sean Penn is 56. Jazz musician Everette Harp is 55. Rock musician Gilby Clarke is 54. Singer Maria McKee is 52. Rock musician Steve Gorman (The Black Crowes) is 51. Rock musician Jill Cunniff (kuh-NIHF') is 50. Actor David Conrad is 49. Singer Donnie Wahlberg is 47. College Basketball Hall of Famer and retired NBA All-Star Christian Laettner is 47. Rapper Posdnuos (PAHS'-deh-noos) is 47. International Tennis Hall of Famer Jim Courier is 46. Retired MLB All-Star Jorge Posada is 45. TV personality Giuliana Rancic is 42. Actor Mark Salling is 34. Actor Bryton James is 30. Actor Brady Corbet (kohr-BAY') is 28. Actress Taissa Farmiga is 22. Olympic bronze medal figure skater Gracie Gold is 21.

Thought for Today: "Experience is a good school, but the fees are high." — Heinrich Heine, German poet and critic (1797-1856).