

# Groton Daily Independent

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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. 24

### Pool Hours:

1 p.m. to 4:50 p.m.: Open Swim

5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.: Lap Swim

6:40 p.m. to 8 p.m., Open Swim

### Vesuvius Day

Faculty Inservice

**Senior Menu:** Ranch chicken, boiled potato, green beans, cake with strawberries, whole wheat bread.

**Birthdays:** Mitchell Koens • Bill Stolle • Clint Mortenson • Tanea Clocksene

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

9:00 am to 11 am: Shooter drill in Groton

12:00pm: Kiwanis meets at the Community Center

## Thursday, Aug. 25

### Pool Hours:

4 p.m. to 7 p.m.: Open Swim

### FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

### Kiss and Make Up Day

**School Breakfast:** Cereal, yogurt, fruit, juice or milk.

**School Lunch:** Chicken nuggets, sweet tots, bread sticks, romaine salad, fruit.

**Senior Menu:** Swiss steak with mushroom gravy, mashed potatoes, mixed vegetables, rice and raisins, whole wheat bread.

**Birthdays:** Tim Fliehs • Angela Mettler

10:00am: NEC Golf at Redfield

6:00pm: Volleyball at Deuel (C/JV start at 6 pm)

## 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

## Harry Implement

"Family Owned & Operated Since 1935!"



(605) 395-6421

Ferney

## Referred Law 19

### Title: An Act to revise State laws regarding elections and election petitions

#### Attorney General Explanation

Currently, primary election candidates for certain offices must circulate and submit nominating petitions between January 1 and the last Tuesday in March. Referred Law 19 changes that timeframe to between December 1 and the first Tuesday in March. The referred law also changes other election-related submission deadlines, adjusting them from the last Tuesday in March to the first Tuesday in March.

Certain election-related documents, including nominating petitions, are currently considered timely submitted if sent by registered mail before the deadline. The referred law changes this to require that these documents be received by the submission deadline. It also changes the method for calculating the number of signatures required on nominating petitions for certain elective offices.

The referred law prohibits a person registered with a recognized political party from signing an independent candidate's nominating petition. The current law does not contain that prohibition.

Under the referred law, an independent governor candidate cannot appear on the ballot if the corresponding lieutenant governor candidate withdraws and a replacement is not certified by the second Tuesday in August. It also restricts the circumstances under which a political party may replace a candidate who has withdrawn from consideration after the primary election.

A vote "Yes" is for revising State laws regarding elections and election petitions.

A vote "No" is against the referred law.

#### Pro –Referred Law19

Passage of Referred Law 19 will mean fair and honest elections, increased transparency, and will prevent abuses of the election process.

Republicans drafted this bill, Republican Legislators passed it, and a Republican Governor signed it. Every voter, especially Republicans, should support Referred Law 19.

House Majority Leader Rep. Brian Gosch

#### Con –Referred Law19

Referred Law 19 is an attack on democracy. Incumbent legislators hijacked a petition reform law and turned it into this pile of new regulations to help themselves cling to power and discourage us citizens from participating in elections.

Among its several sections, Referred Law 19 makes three harmful changes.

RL 19 moves the deadline for candidate petitions from the end of March to the beginning of March. Candidates for Legislature would have to decide whether to run or not before the Legislative Session ends.

Candidates would lose most of the longer, warmer days of March to circulate petitions. In exchange, RL 19 gives them December, whose short days, cold weather, and holiday busyness make it the worst month for petitioning. These conditions mean fewer candidates will run for office.

RL 19 requires Republican and Democratic candidates to gather more signatures. It's already hard to recruit neighbors to run for office; making candidates collect more signatures will keep even more candidates off the ballot.

Worst of all, RL 19 takes away the right of Republicans and Democrats to sign petitions for Independent candidates. Right now, Independent candidates can take signatures from any registered voter. RL 19 says Independents could only take signatures from fellow Independents.

Limiting Independent petitions to Independent signers drastically reduces the number of South Dakotans who can sign Independent petitions (from 81% of adults to 17%) and makes it practically impossible for Independents to get on the ballot.

These changes add up to fewer people running for office, fewer choices on our ballots, and fewer incumbents held accountable by challengers.

That's bad for democracy. If we want to encourage citizens to participate in elections and make their voices heard, let's vote NO on Referred Law 19 and seek other reforms to improve our petition and election laws.

Cory Allen Heidelberger, Independent journalist, Dakota Free Press, Candidate, District 3 Senate  
Aberdeen, South Dakota

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## Red Alert in Groton!

You could say that there will be a big Red Alert in Groton this morning. The Brown County Emergency Management Office, in cooperation with the Groton Area School District, will be having a mock drill for a full scale active shooter exercise.

According to Scott Meints, director of Brown County Emergency Management, the exercise will run from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. on August 24th. The agencies involved are the Groton Area School District, Groton Police Dept., Groton Fire and Rescue, Careflight, BC Emergency Management, BC Sheriff and the SD Highway Patrol.

Meints said the purpose of the exercise is, "to familiarize appropriate agencies: with the community, intent to conduct an interagency exercise, their roles, and responsibilities in planning and execution, and the capabilities of the community to respond to an incident.

"Evaluators will be on hand from other school districts, law enforcement, and fire/rescue to provide feedback on items that were executed correctly or items that need improvement."

## Boys golf team places fourth at Milbank

The Groton boy's golf team went to Milbank on August 18th where the team placed fourth in a field of eight teams. Sisseton and Aberdeen Roncalli tied for first with 332 points followed by Sioux Valley with 378, Groton Area with 385, Watertown had 387 points, Aberdeen Central 421, Milbank Area 422 and Redfield-Doland with 459 points.

Cade Guthmiller placed 10th with a score of 91, Sean Schuring was 13th with a 93, Landon Marzahn was 17th with a 95 and Hunter Schaller was 28th with a score of 106.

The golf team will travel to Redfield tomorrow to take part in the Northeast Conference meet starting at 10 a.m.

### Soup, Sandwich and Pie Luncheon

**\$2 Each**

**Thursday, Sept. 8**

**11 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

St. John's Lutheran Church  
Groton

### Craft and Bake Sale

Supplemental funds have been  
applied for from

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.

### OPEN HOUSE FAREWELL RECEPTION

*for*

*Pastor Elizabeth Johnson*

**Sunday, August 28**

**2 – 4 pm**

Emmanuel Lutheran Church  
Groton, SD 57445

## Ways to Save Money at the State Fair

HURON, S.D.- The South Dakota State Fair offers several ways to save money during the fair.

On Thursday, Sept. 1, all veterans and active military members receive free gate admission. 4-H youth also receive free gate admission by showing their 4-H card that can be obtained from county 4-H offices.

Coupons for \$1 off gate admission on Friday, Sept. 2, are available at Prostrollo Motors on east Highway 14 in Huron. The Prostrollo's Rockin' Rollback coupons are valid on Friday, Sept. 2, only. Half of the coupon will be taken at the gate. Bring the other half to the Prostrollo's Building and sign up to win meet and greet passes to the Grandsand.

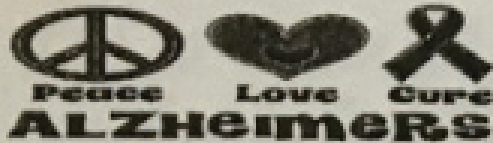
Another way to save on gate admission is by purchasing your grandstand tickets on or before Wednesday, Aug. 31. Tickets purchased by then include gate admission.

Monday, Sept. 5, is Pay it Forward Day. The fair is teaming up with businesses and organizations that are generously sponsoring gate admission passes for those in need. Passes will also be randomly handed out at the gate entrances. Other Pay it Forward activities on Sept. 5 include:

Pay it forward to the food pantry by bringing a non-perishable food item for the 'Drive to End Hunger' between the hours of 7 a.m. and 10 a.m. and receive \$2 off gate admission.

Monster truck fans, pay it forward and have a 'souper' good time by bringing a can of soup to the grandstand between 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. and receive a free ride on the "Twisted Steel" monster truck!

There are also plenty of ways to save money at the carnival throughout the week. All rides on Wednesday, Aug. 31, are only a dollar! The Weekly Passport to Fun pass offers admission to the carnival for all five days of the fair. Advanced passes can be purchased at Prostrollo Motors through Sept. 3 for \$52. Big Jim 93.3, Iverson's and Make It Mine Design/Dakota Detail in Huron are offering a \$3 off coupon for weekday ride wristbands. Coupons can be picked up at Iverson's and Make It Mine Design/Dakota Detail in Huron through Saturday, Sept. 3. They will be available at the Iverson's State Fair location Sunday, Sept. 4, and Monday, Sept. 5.



## Indian Taco Fundraiser



**Wednesday, Aug. 31**  
**Starting at 11:30 a.m.**  
**at the Golden Living Center**  
**Fundraiser for the**  
**Alzheimer's Association**  
**1 taco is \$7**

**1 taco with a pop and a bar is \$10**  
**Coke, Dt. Coke, Orange and Mt. Dew**  
**Choice of toppings: Meat, Pinto**  
**beans, onions, cheese, lettuce,**  
**tomato, salas and sour cream.**

*Thanks for your support!*



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

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## Groton Garden Club

The Groton Garden Club met at the home of Deb Olson August 15, at 5:30 p.m. Pam Rix assisted her. Following supper, 11 members answered roll call with what they did at the Brown County Fair. A thank you was read from John and Dodie Martin for naming their yard "Yard of the Week." Yard of the week winners for July were Ron and Katherine Reh fuss, Rob and Jeanne Wanous, Michelle Fordham and Rose Waage. The SD state board meeting will be held October 29, 9:30 in Watertown. It was decided to hold a plant sale in conjunction with the fall rummage, September 10th at the City Park. 8am till noon. Next meeting will be September 19, at 5:30 pm with Linda Anderson and Marj Overacker hosting at Golden Living Center. Linda Gengerke will have the program.



## 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.**

## Outdoor World<sup>®</sup>

### TIPS TO USE IN THE DEER WOODS

There are plenty of scents available to today's bowhunter, but some hunters use them excessively. Too much scent will drive deer away, not bring them to you. The best scent is no scent. Working hard to keep yourself and your clothing scent-free is the best way to lure in the big bucks.

It's hard to do, but if you can't see where a deer is looking, don't move! When you hear a deer walking in the dry leaves of fall, don't react quickly. Slowly turn your head until you see where the deer is. Any quick movement on your part will result in the deer's quick departure.

A young deer hanging around your stand can be a good watchdog for you. If it suddenly stops browsing and starts staring in a certain direction with its ears up, get ready! In most cases, another deer is coming into your area and it could be the buck you're hoping for.

*By Larry Whiteley, Host of the award-winning Outdoor World Radio*

*For more tips, go to [basspro.com](http://basspro.com) and click on ISource News & Tips*

## After Lengthy Slide, Gas Prices Rise Nearing End to Summer Driving Season

August 22, 2016 – Following a streak where the national retail average price of gasoline dropped on 54 of 55 days, pump prices have now increased on 12 of the past 17 days and each of the past six. The national average price for regular unleaded is \$2.16 per gallon, which is four cents more than one week ago, but is two cents less than a month ago, 46 cents less than the same date last year, and the lowest price for this date since 2004.

“A trio of factors are at work here: demand is high, inventories are still healthy but have fallen lately, and crude oil prices are rising,” said Marilyn Buskohl, spokeswoman for AAA South Dakota. “In fact, West Texas Intermediate closed at \$48.52 per barrel last Friday, the highest the benchmark has been since July 1. WTI has climbed \$22.31 since hitting \$26.21 on Feb. 11 of this year and now there’s quite a bit of concern about a meeting next month at which OPEC and other key exporters will discuss freezing output levels. If they do, WTI could rise even more.”

Also supporting higher pump prices have been refinery issues. This includes a number of refineries in the Gulf Coast that are undergoing unplanned maintenance as a result of flooding in Louisiana and refinery fire in Texas. Drivers in the Midwest and Central U.S. continue to see the most dramatic recent price movement as the impact of outages – including the BP refinery in Whiting, Ind. – has pushed prices higher.

Unlike the national trend, South Dakota’s statewide average price for regular gasoline has stayed steady since August 15. The price today, \$2.257 per gallon is within 1 cent of the state’s average one month ago, according to GasPrices.AAA.com.

|                     | Today   | Last Week | Change   | 5-Jul  | Change   | Last year |
|---------------------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|-----------|
| <b>Aberdeen</b>     | \$2.158 | \$2.180   | -\$0.022 | \$2.29 | -\$0.133 | \$2.632   |
| <b>Brookings</b>    | \$2.279 | \$2.229   | \$0.050  | \$2.37 | -\$0.095 | \$2.667   |
| <b>Huron</b>        | \$2.283 | \$2.260   | \$0.023  | \$2.44 | -\$0.160 | \$2.713   |
| <b>Mitchell</b>     | \$2.201 | \$2.245   | -\$0.044 | \$2.31 | -\$0.111 | \$2.691   |
| <b>Pierre</b>       | \$2.410 | \$2.413   | -\$0.003 | \$2.47 | -\$0.055 | \$2.943   |
| <b>Rapid City</b>   | \$2.363 | \$2.374   | -\$0.011 | \$2.42 | -\$0.059 | \$2.845   |
| <b>Sioux Falls</b>  | \$2.092 | \$2.104   | -\$0.012 | \$2.12 | -\$0.028 | \$2.563   |
| <b>Vermillion</b>   | \$2.224 | \$2.232   | -\$0.008 | \$2.28 | -\$0.058 | \$2.459   |
| <b>Watertown</b>    | \$2.214 | \$2.284   | -\$0.070 | \$2.38 | -\$0.167 | \$2.676   |
| <b>Yankton</b>      | \$2.253 | \$2.208   | \$0.045  | \$2.29 | -\$0.040 | \$2.662   |
| <b>South Dakota</b> | \$2.257 | \$2.256   | \$0.001  | \$2.33 | -\$0.071 | \$2.662   |

### Quick Stats

Gas prices in nine states are below \$2.00 per gallon, three fewer than one week ago: South Carolina (\$1.87), Alabama (\$1.90), Mississippi (\$1.93), Virginia (\$1.95), Tennessee (\$1.95), New Jersey (\$1.96), Arkansas (\$1.99), Texas (\$1.99), and Louisiana (\$1.997).

West Coast drivers are still paying the highest prices for gasoline despite featuring five of the six states with week-over-week savings. This region includes the seven highest state averages and the four states where drivers are paying an average of more than \$2.50: Hawaii (\$2.69), California (\$2.66), Washington (\$2.58), and Alaska (\$2.55).

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

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## Today in Weather History

August 24, 1960: A man was injured when a barn was blown over by an F2 tornado that touched down near Hayes, in Stanley County. Hail, up to golf ball size accompanied the storm as well as about three inches of rain, causing some damage to crops and a farm house. The sky color in a westerly direction shortly before the tornado hit was described as a distinct shade of green. Evidence suggests that the tornado may have touched down again in northeast Sully County, destroying a barn, a chicken coop, and hay stacks on two farms. Also, precipitation more than 3 inches and locally 6 to 8 inches was accompanied by severe hail, causing damage to buildings and crops. Hail damage was heaviest in Stanly County. The wind carried away an estimated 400 tons of baled hay in Haakon County. A measured rainfall amount of 5.1 inches in less than six hours occurred in Onida, causing extensive flooding of basements, streets, and cropland. Additional rainfall amounts include 5.58 inches 4 NW of Onida, 4.50 inches 23 N of Highmore, 3.05 inches 2N of Onaka, 3.42 inches in Clear Lake, 3.11 inches in Miller, 3.02 inches in Eureka, 2.55 inches 1 NW of Faulkton, 2.40 inches in Gettysburg, 2.22 inches in Blunt, 2.20 inches at Oahe Dam, and 2.16 inches in Clark.

August 24, 1998: A line of severe thunderstorms moved rapidly southeast across Sully, Hyde, and Hand counties during the morning hours, producing destructive winds up to 100 mph and hail up to the size of baseballs. The winds and hail damaged or destroyed a wide swath of sunflowers and corn. Four power poles south of Highmore on Highway 47 were snapped off. The school in Highmore had twenty screens shredded by the hail and the winds. On a farm northeast of Onida, a grain bin was blown over a distance of 200 yards.

79: Stratovolcano, Mount Vesuvius erupted on this day, burying the Roman cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum.

1456: Machiavelli wrote, "On the 24th of August, about an hour before day-break there arose from the Adriatic near Ancona, a whirlwind, which crossing Italy from east to west, again reached the sea near Pisa, accompanied by thick clouds, and the most intense and impenetrable darkness."





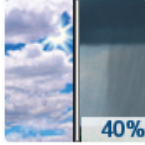


1992: Hurricane Andrew made landfall in southern Florida at 4:30 AM on this day. The high winds caused catastrophic damage in Florida, with Miami-Dade County cities of Florida City, Homestead, and Cutler Ridge receiving the brunt of the storm. About 63,000 homes were destroyed, and over 101,000 others were damaged. This storm left roughly 175,000 people homeless. As many as 1.4 million people were left without electricity at the height of the storm. In the Everglades, 70,000 acres (280 km<sup>2</sup>) of trees were knocked down. Additionally, rainfall in Florida was substantial, peaking at 13.98 in (355 mm) in western Miami-Dade County. About \$25 billion in damage and 44 fatalities were reported in Florida.



**This is a painting called, Vesuvius from Portici, by Joseph Wright of Derby. The painting is courtesy of the Art collection of Huntington Library in Pasadena, CA.**

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| Today                                                                             | Tonight                                                                           | Thursday                                                                          | Thursday Night                                                                    | Friday                                                                             | Friday Night                                                                        | Saturday                                                                            |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Sunny                                                                             | Mostly Clear                                                                      | Mostly Sunny                                                                      | Mostly Clear                                                                      | Partly Sunny<br>then Chance<br>Showers                                             | T-storms<br>Likely                                                                  | Chance<br>T-storms                                                                  |
| High: 77 °F                                                                       | Low: 50 °F                                                                        | High: 72 °F                                                                       | Low: 48 °F                                                                        | High: 73 °F                                                                        | Low: 56 °F                                                                          | High: 74 °F                                                                         |

*Cooler and dry, with highs in the 70s to low 80s through Thursday*



National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD

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



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen

Updated: 8/24/2016 4:48 AM Central

Published on: 08/24/2016 at 4:54AM

High pressure will be slowly invading from the west, keeping dry weather in the forecast through at least Thursday evening. Temperatures will average 10 degrees lower than what occurred Monday, topping out in the mid 70s to low 80s.



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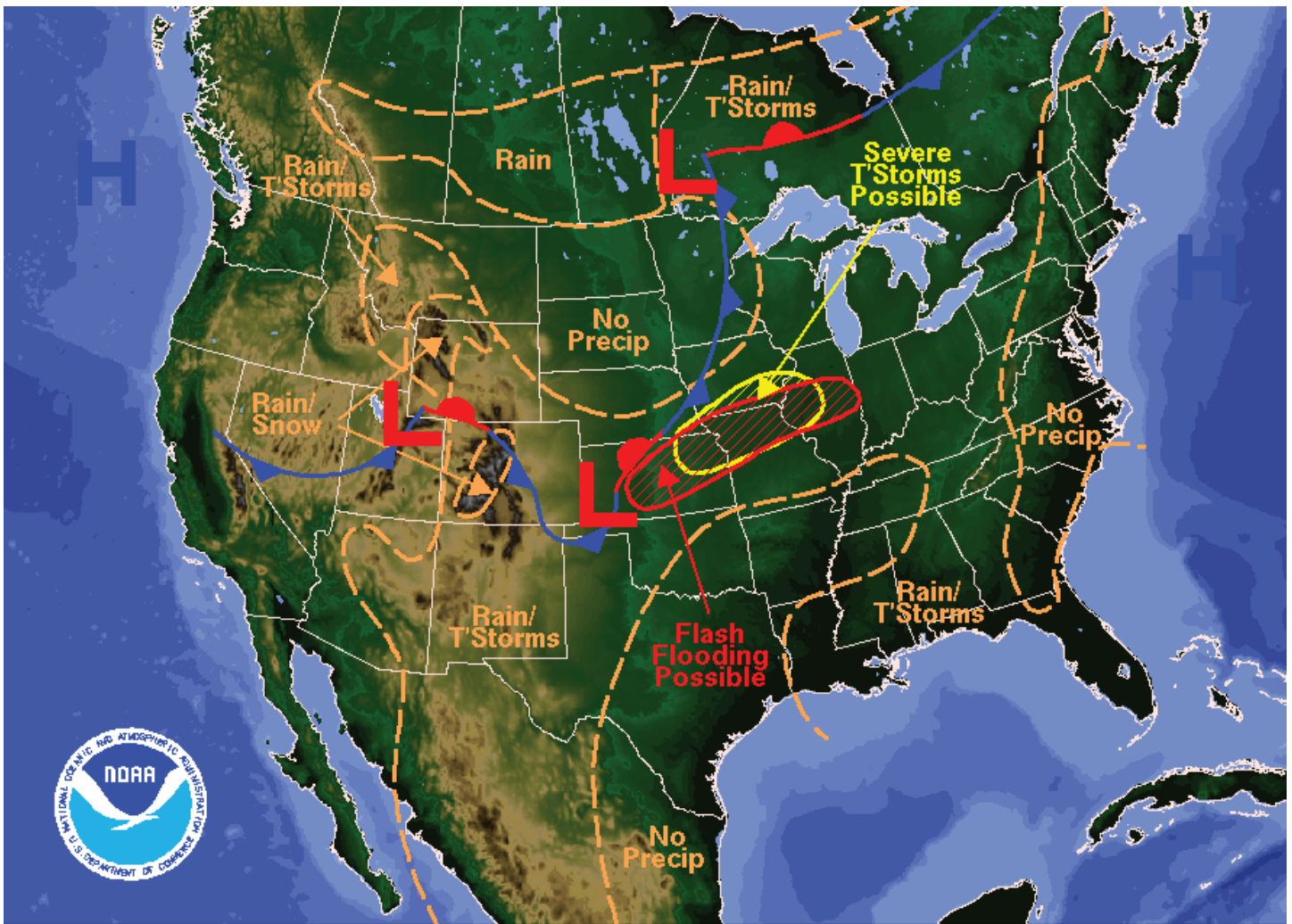
## Yesterday's Weather

**High Outside Temp: 86.6 F at 3:25 PM**  
**Low Outside Temp: 63.9 F at 11:59 PM**  
**High Gust: 36.0 Mph at 1:33 PM**

Precip: 0.00

## Today's Info

**Record High: 103° in 1929**  
**Record Low: 38° in 1934**  
**Average High: 81°F**  
**Average Low: 55°F**  
**Average Precip in Aug: 1.88**  
**Precip to date in Aug: 1.93**  
**Average Precip to date: 15.74**  
**Precip Year to Date: 12.66**  
**Sunset Tonight: 8:24 p.m.**  
**Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:47 a.m.**



Weather Forecast for Wed, Aug 24, 2016, issued 4:37 AM EDT  
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center  
Prepared by McReynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts



## THE LIMITS OF PRAYER

Young Eddie was saying grace before the family had dinner in a local restaurant. Heads were bowed and hands united around the table when he said, "Lord, thank You for the food that is coming. And Lord, I'll really thank You a lot more if Mom would get us some ice cream!"

A woman sitting at the next table was heard to say, "Shame on that child. Kids just don't know how to pray anymore. Asking God for ice cream is a disgrace."

Someone in a booth overheard the woman and said, "Asking God for ice cream is a great prayer. Ice cream is good for the soul."

When the ice cream was served, young Eddie took his bowl to the woman and said, "Here, ma'am. This is for you. Sometimes ice cream is good for the soul."

Paul said, "Pray about everything!" Nothing is beyond everything – not even ice cream. As believers we need not worry about anything because we have a loving Heavenly Father Who knows about and cares for our every need and want.

Here's a great reminder from Peter: "Give all your worries and wants to God, for He cares for you." If only we would accept the reality of God's power and His unlimited concern for us, our prayers would be vastly different and even include "ice cream" sometimes.

Prayer: Help us, Father, to look to You as a Father Who cares for everything about us. May we take You at Your word and pray and trust You completely. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: 1 Peter 5:7 Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

The logo for Golden Living, featuring the words "golden" in orange and "living" in blue, with a stylized orange and blue wave graphic below.

**We now accept**

The logo for Avera Health Plans, featuring the word "Avera" in white on a blue background, with a white cross symbol to the right, and "Health Plans" in white below.

**for out patient therapy.**

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

## Sanford Health to honor namesake with \$6M foundation house

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Dakotas-based Sanford Health plans to build a \$6 million, 17,000-square-foot house in Sioux Falls to honor the health network's philanthropist namesake and as a new home for the Sanford Health Foundation.

T. Denny Sanford, who made his fortune in the banking industry and has donated nearly \$1 billion to Sanford Health and causes including children's health, cancer research and genomic medicine, said he is honored and "proud to have helped fuel the flame of what is now Sanford Health."

Construction is to begin this fall on the two-story Sanford Foundation House and is expected to wrap up in about a year. The money will be raised through private donations.

"This facility will provide a structural symbol of the power of philanthropy and will serve as a beacon for future giving," Sanford said. "It will be a real tribute to the impact of giving back."

The foundation is the fundraising arm of Sanford Health. It manages endowment funds and oversees special programs including the Children's Miracle Network and Cure Kids Cancer.

Foundation President Micah Aberson said Sanford has "transformed health care through his unprecedented and extraordinary generosity," and described the house as "a version of a presidential library."

Sanford Health is based in Sioux Falls and Fargo, North Dakota. It bills itself as one of the largest health systems in the nation, with 43 hospitals and nearly 250 clinics in nine states.

## Minimum-security prison inmate missing in Rapid City

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Authorities are looking for a minimum-security state prison inmate who walked away from a community service job in Rapid City.

Corrections officials say 36-year-old Michael Merrival went missing Tuesday. He's serving 10 years for a grand theft conviction in Pennington County.

Merrival has been charged with felony escape.

## South Dakota's average ACT score stays flat, above nation's

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota's average composite score on the ACT college-entrance exam is the same for the fourth year in a row.

South Dakota's 21.9 score is above the national average of 20.8. The testing company says 6,552 South Dakota students took the ACT, that's about 76 percent of the graduating class of 2016.

Thirty-three percent of students who took the exam hit the college-prepared benchmark in the four core subjects tested — reading, English, math and science. However, the testing agency says, of the 450 Native American students who took the ACT, only 4 percent met the four benchmarks. That's less than half of the national rate of 9 percent.

Reaching three or more benchmarks indicates a strong readiness for college course work.

Nationwide, nearly 2.1 million graduating seniors took the ACT.

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## Tuesday's Scores The Associated Press

### Volleyball

Bon Homme def. Winner, 25-15, 25-18, 25-19  
Brandon Valley def. Yankton, 19-25, 25-10, 25-15, 25-18  
Chester def. Flandreau, 25-8, 25-8, 25-13  
Harrisburg def. Aberdeen Central, 25-19, 25-19, 25-21  
Howard def. DeSmet, 25-22, 22-25, 25-23, 25-19  
Huron def. Watertown, 25-10, 25-23, 25-16  
McCook Central/Montrose def. Bridgewater-Emery, 25-16, 17-25, 25-10, 25-18  
Northwestern def. Sisseton, 25-17, 25-10, 25-14  
Sioux Falls Roosevelt def. Sioux Falls O'Gorman, 23-25, 25-13, 25-16, 25-21  
Sioux Valley def. Deuel, 25-18, 25-10, 25-13  
Webster def. Florence/Henry, 25-21, 25-13, 17-25, 25-16  
Hanson Tournament  
Ethan def. Canistota, 25-22, 25-16  
Freeman Academy/Marion def. Andes Central/Dakota Christian, 25-14, 25-16  
Hanson def. Freeman, 25-18, 25-12  
Mitchell JV def. Sanborn Central/Woonsocket, 25-8, 25-14  
Semifinal  
Hanson def. Ethan, 26-24, 25-19  
Mitchell JV def. Freeman Academy/Marion, 25-14, 25-22

## Lemmon's chance to be capital for a day approaching

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Lemmon's chance to be the honorary South Dakota capital for a day this month is approaching quickly.

Gov. Dennis Daugaard's office says activities for the Aug. 31 event will include a community lunch, main street walk and tours around town.

First lady Linda Daugaard will be having story time at the Lemmon Public Library, and children in the community are invited to attend.

Citizens can come to a lunch at the Beeler Community Center to talk with the governor and celebrate Wheeler Manufacturing's 70th anniversary.

## South Dakota Prep Polls The Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The inaugural 2016 South Dakota Sportswriters Association high school football poll is below. Teams are listed with first-place votes in parentheses, vote points and their finish in the final 2015 poll.

### Class 11AAA

| Rank-School               | FPV | TP | Pvs |
|---------------------------|-----|----|-----|
| 1. Sioux Falls Washington | (4) | 33 | 1   |
| 2. Sioux Falls Roosevelt  | (3) | 31 | 2   |
| 3. Brandon Valley         | -   | 21 | 4   |
| 4. Sioux Falls O'Gorman   | -   | 20 | 3   |

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5. Sioux Falls Lincoln (1) 15 5

Others receiving votes: None.

## Class 11AA

| Rank-School   | FPV | TP | Pvs |
|---------------|-----|----|-----|
| 1. Yankton    | (5) | 31 | 3   |
| 2. Mitchell   | (2) | 28 | 2   |
| 3. Harrisburg | (1) | 26 | 4   |
| 4. Pierre     | -   | 21 | 1   |
| 5. Brookings  | -   | 14 | 5   |

Others receiving votes: None.

## Class 11A

| Rank-School        | FPV | TP | Pvs |
|--------------------|-----|----|-----|
| T1.West Central    | (4) | 33 | 3   |
| T1.Madison         | (3) | 33 | 1   |
| 3. SF Christian    | -   | 21 | 4   |
| 4. St. Thomas More | (1) | 17 | 2   |
| 5. Tea Area        | -   | 7  | NR  |

Others receiving votes: Lennox 5, Dell Rapids 2, Milbank Area 1, Hot Springs 1.

## Class 11B

| Rank-School          | FPV | TP | Pvs |
|----------------------|-----|----|-----|
| 1. Winner            | (8) | 40 | 1   |
| 2. Tri-Valley        | -   | 27 | 3   |
| 3. Aberdeen Roncalli | -   | 15 | 2   |
| 4. Groton Area       | -   | 12 | 4   |
| 5. Sioux Valley      | -   | 10 | NR  |

Others receiving votes: Bridgewater-Emery/Ethan 8, Parkston 4, Custer 2, Mobridge-Pollock 2.

## Class 9AA

| Rank-School                    | FPV | TP | Pvs       |
|--------------------------------|-----|----|-----------|
| 1. Wolsey-Wessington           | (6) | 34 | 2         |
| 2. Canistota                   | (1) | 22 | 1 (in 9A) |
| 3. Webster Area                | (1) | 20 | 4         |
| 4. Woon.-Wess-Spr4Sanborn Cent | -   | 14 | 1         |
| 5. Chester Area                | -   | 11 | 3         |

Others receiving votes: Bon Homme 9, Mount Vernon-Plankinton 4, Stanley County 2, Britton-Hecla 2, Clark-Willow Lake 1, Gregory 1.

## Class 9A

| Rank-School            | FPV | TP | Pvs |
|------------------------|-----|----|-----|
| 1. Sully Buttes        | (7) | 36 | 5   |
| 2. Scotland            | -   | 17 | 4   |
| T3.Waverly-South Shore | -   | 16 | 2   |
| T3.Warner              | -   | 16 | 3   |
| 5. Potter County       | -   | 12 | NR  |

Others receiving votes: Philip 6, Parker 5, Colman-Egan 4, Lemmon/McIntosh 3, Castlewood/Estelline 2, Irene-Wakonda 2, Eureka-Bowdle 1.

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## Class 9B

| Rank-School         | FPV | TP | Pvs |
|---------------------|-----|----|-----|
| 1. Langford Area    | (8) | 40 | 1   |
| 2. Harding County   | -   | 24 | 4   |
| 3. Corsica-Stickney | -   | 23 | 3   |
| 4. Colome           | -   | 14 | 2   |
| 5. Hamlin           | -   | 13 | 5   |

Others receiving votes: Alcester-Hudson 3, Wall 1, De Smet 1, Dell Rapids St. Mary 1.

## Astronaut shares photo, video taken from space of landmarks

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Have you ever wondered what some South Dakota landmarks look like from space?

NASA astronaut Jeff Williams this week has shared on Twitter a photo and video of two popular South Dakota landmarks that were taken from the International Space Station.

Williams on Tuesday shared a photo of the Badlands National Park. A day earlier, he showed his followers a video of the Black Hills showing where Mount Rushmore National Memorial is located.

Williams was one of the two astronauts who installed a new front door for visitors at the International Space Station on Friday. He is scheduled to return to Earth on Sept. 6.

## 2 meth get more than 10 years in Brookings meth conspiracy

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Two men have been sentenced to more than 10 years in prison for their role in a methamphetamine ring that operated in Brookings County.

U.S. District Judge Karen Schreier in Sioux Falls has sentenced 33-year-old Javier Santos Garcia-Hernandez and 26-year-old Juan Francisco Herrera-Rodriguez, both formerly of Brookings. A federal jury in June found the men guilty of conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine.

Federal authorities say Garcia-Hernandez and Herrera-Rodriguez worked together to distribute meth in Brookings County beginning in April 2015. Authorities say the men sold over 200 grams of pure meth to confidential informants through several recorded purchases. They were arrested Sept. 15.

Garcia-Hernandez and Herrera-Rodriguez were ordered to follow their prison time with three years of supervised release. They are now under the custody of the U.S. Marshals Service.

## Kidnapping trial delayed for man who killed Peterson's son

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A kidnapping trial has been delayed for the man serving life in prison without parole for killing the 2-year-old son of Minnesota Vikings running back Adrian Peterson in South Dakota.

Joseph Patterson is accused of kidnapping and assaulting the mother of Tyrese Ruffin in Sioux Falls in 2014 while awaiting trial in the boy's death. Patterson was convicted last September of second-degree murder in the October 2013 death of the boy who was the son of Patterson's girlfriend, Ashley Doohen, and Peterson.

Judge Brad Zell held a hearing Monday on whether police illegally entered Doohen's home the night authorities say she was attacked. Officers gained access with a spare key from one of Doohen's friends.

Patterson's attorneys argued that since officers didn't have a search warrant, the search was illegal and the evidence obtained by officers should not be allowed at trial. Officer Pete Blankenfeld said authorities had Doohen's safety in mind.

"I felt it was necessary to enter the apartment to check on (her)," he said.

Zell did not immediately rule on the matter or on a defense motion to move the trial out of Sioux Falls due to extensive media coverage of the case. He did postpone the trial from October to January, and said that if the trial is moved it would be held in Aberdeen.

## Drone being tested in North Dakota for use during disasters

**DAVE KOLPACK, Associated Press**

HILLSBORO, N.D. (AP) — A 20-foot-long drone that was brought to North Dakota to test precision agriculture methods is now part of a trial run to see if can help crews restore power to areas hit by natural disasters.

The Israeli-manufactured Elbit Systems Hermes 450 aircraft can cover 40,000 acres in an hour and fly up to 17 hours before refueling. Officials involved in the Xcel Energy test program say the larger drone's ability to cover more ground, collect more data and fly at night is expected to help the company move crews, materials and equipment quickly and safely.

"When you have a storm, when you have fires, getting crews on the ground to identify damage is flat-out dangerous," Raanan Horowitz, president and CEO of Elbit Systems of America, said Monday when the drone was shown off to public officials at an airport in Hillsboro, about 35 miles north of Fargo.

One of the tests involves a mock disaster using power poles placed in ditches in and around the near-by city of Mayville. Preliminary reports show that the drone is effective in quickly locating the downed poles both day and night, Xcel Energy Vice President Laura McCarten said.

"Apparently those wood poles stay warmer than the surroundings, so the infrared technology is able to spot them at night," she said.

Xcel Energy is headquartered in Minneapolis and serves customers in North Dakota, Minnesota, South Dakota, Wisconsin, Colorado, Michigan, Texas and New Mexico.

There are still key issues to be ironed out before the drones can be used on a widespread commercial basis, including Federal Aviation Administration approval to operate beyond line of sight, or without the use of a chase plane keeping tabs on the planes. North Dakota Sen. John Hoeven said he hopes North Dakota will be flying drones without chase planes by the end of the year.

"You're covering such big distances. You're losing the utility of the unmanned aircraft if you have to have a chase plane," Hoeven said.

Minnesota Rep. Collin Peterson, whose district borders North Dakota, said the FFA "didn't do too bad of a job" on regulations for small drones, but he expects a much stiffer challenge on rules for larger aircraft.

"The FAA is very slow moving bureaucracy, to say the least," Peterson said.

If larger unmanned aircraft are approved for beyond-line-of-sight operations, Horowitz said the quadcopters and drones that weigh less than 55 pounds would still be used in a complementary role.

"The bottom line is, when you look at the size and the areas that you are trying to cover, when you look at the resolution, when you look at using sensors that can yield data that is actually usable, this is the way to go," Horowitz said of the Hermes drone.

Elbit Systems and Xcel Energy have combined to contribute about \$500,000 into flying the Hermes drone. McCarten said the agriculture test program that began in May provided a "ready-made platform" for the Xcel study.

North Dakota State University researcher John Nowatzki said the agriculture test has yielded impressive results on the drone's ability to capture images. Nowatzki has displayed pictures of a shelter belt taken from 4,000, 6,000 and 8,000 feet, with no discernable difference to the human eye.

"The key message here, maybe, is that we get high resolutions at all levels," he said.

Sarah Lovas, an area farmer and crop consultant, said some of her cohorts still want to find out how they can manage the data in an affordable way, but most have embraced the technology.

"There's just no such thing as a dumb farmer anymore," she said.

## **Childless Bosnian couple stage and attend their own funeral**

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP) — A childless Bosnian couple have staged and attended their own funeral saying they wanted it to be an opportunity to celebrate life with friends and family.

Dragan Maric, 61, and his 65-year-old wife Dragica had sent invites to their pretend funeral and some 200 people turned up.

During the ceremony at a cemetery in the northern village of Pojezdina, Dragan held a speech about the couples' love-filled life. The "mourners" then proceeded to a traditional post-burial feast in a local restaurant which turned into an all-night celebration with music and dancing.

Dragan said: "We do not have children so we had to organize a proper funeral for ourselves before we die."

He added: "Our only obligation now is to die when our time comes and that is just a formality."

## **North Korean submarine missile launch shows improved ability**

**HYUNG-JIN KIM, Associated Press**

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — A ballistic missile fired from a North Korean submarine on Wednesday flew about 500 kilometers (310 miles), the longest flight ever by the North for such a weapon, Seoul officials said, and range that can place all of South Korea, and possibly parts of Japan, within its striking distance.

North Korea already has a variety of land-based missiles that can strike South Korea and Japan, including U.S. military bases in those countries. But the North acquiring reliable submarine-launched missiles is a worrying development because they are harder to detect before liftoff.

South Korea's military condemned the launch as an "armed protest" against the start of annual South Korean-U.S. military drills, but they acknowledged that it showed an "improvement" in ability over previous similar missile tests.

"North Korea's nuclear and missile threats are not imaginary threats any longer, but they're now becoming real threats," South Korean President Park Geun-hye said of the launch. "Those threats are coming closer each moment."

The missile, fired from a submarine off the eastern North Korean coastal town of Sinpo, reached into Japan's air defense identification zone, according to Seoul and Tokyo officials. The U.S. Strategic Command said it tracked the North Korean submarine launch of the presumed KN-11 missile into the Sea of Japan.

The 500-kilometer distance is longer than ones recorded by other submarine-launched missiles fired by North Korea, and puts most of South Korea within its range if it is fired near the border.

Missiles of such capability could also potentially strike parts of Japan, including U.S. military bases on the island of Okinawa, considering the operational range of North Korea's Sinpo-class submarines, which could move close to 1,000 kilometers (620 miles) underwater at a time, said analyst Kim Dong-yub at Seoul's Institute for Far Eastern Studies.

North Korea fired two missiles from submarines earlier this year, but South Korean defense officials believe they exploded in midair after flying less than 30 kilometers (18 miles).



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The launch was the latest in a series of missile, rocket and other weapon tests this year by North Korea, which is openly pushing to acquire a reliable weapon capable striking targets as far away as the continental U.S.

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

Many outside experts say the North doesn't yet have a functioning long-range nuclear missile capable of reaching the continental U.S., but they acknowledge that the North has been making steady progress on its weapons programs and could one day acquire such a weapon. Some civilian experts have said they believe the North already has the technology to put warheads on shorter-range missiles that can strike South Korea and Japan.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe called the launch an "impermissible and outrageous act" that poses a grave threat to Japan. The U.S. Strategic Command statement said that the launch did not pose a threat to North America, but that the U.S. military "remains vigilant in the face of North Korean provocations."

The Foreign Ministry of China, the North's last major ally, called for all sides concerned to avoid taking moves that increase tensions.

South Korean defense officials believe North Korea has about 70 operational submarines and appears to be mainly imitating Russian designs to develop submarine-launched missiles.

Wednesday's launch comes two days after the U.S. and South Korea began their 12-day Ulchi Freedom Guardian exercises, prompting North Korean threats of retaliation for the military drills, which it views as an invasion rehearsal. Before the launch, North Korea warned that the joint military exercises were pushing the Korean Peninsula "to the brink of a war" and asked for an urgent meeting of the U.N. Security Council.

South Korea's Foreign Ministry warned that the North's pursuit of weapons programs would only invite more sanctions, deepen its international isolation, and eventually speed up its collapse. The South's Joint Chiefs of Staff noted that the launch violated U.N. Security Council resolutions banning any ballistic missile activities by North Korea.

The launch also comes at a time of intensified animosities between the rival Koreas over the defection of a senior North Korean diplomat in London and a U.S. plan to install a sophisticated missile defense system in South Korea.

About 28,500 U.S. troops are based in South Korea to help deter potential aggression from North Korea, a legacy of the 1950-53 Korean War, which ended with an armistice, not a peace treaty. North Korea usually responds to the regular South Korea-U.S. military drills with weapons tests and fiery war-like rhetoric.

## **Turkey in cross-border operation to free IS-held Syrian town**

**SUZAN FRASER, Associated Press**

**PHILIP ISSA, Associated Press**

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — After a pre-dawn barrage of heavy artillery and airstrikes, Turkey sent tanks and special forces into Syria on Wednesday to help clear a border town of Islamic State militants, marking the NATO member's most significant military involvement so far in the Syria conflict.

Hundreds of Syrian opposition fighters were also part of the cross-border incursion to oust the militants from Jarablus, which was reported by both Turkish state media and Syrian opposition activists.

Hours after the start of the operation, Turkey's state-run news agency and a Syrian opposition media

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activist said the rebels captured Kaklijeh — an IS-held village near Jarablus — with the support of Turkish armored units. The village is some 3 kilometers (1.8 miles) from the Turkish border, the Anadolu Agency said.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said the military operation aims to prevent threats from “terror” groups, including the Islamic State and a U.S.-backed Syrian Kurdish militia affiliated with Turkey’s outlawed Kurdish rebels. Erdogan said the operation was in response to a string of attacks in Turkey, including a suicide bombing at a wedding party near the border that killed 54 people.

Wednesday’s dual-purpose operation puts Turkey on track for a confrontation with the U.S.-backed Kurdish fighters in Syria, the most effective fighting force against IS in the area.

Turkey is concerned about the growing clout of the group, which it says is linked to Kurdish groups waging an insurgency in southeastern Turkey.

A senior official with Syria’s largest Kurdish group suggested Turkey will pay the price. Saleh Muslim, the co-president of the Democratic Union Party or PYD, tweeted that “Turkey is in Syrian Quagmire. Will be defeated as Daesh” will be. He used the Arabic language acronym for IS.

The latest developments have thrust Jarablus into the spotlight. The town, which lies on the western bank of the Euphrates River where it crosses from Turkey into Syria, is one of the last important IS-held towns between Kurdish-controlled areas in northern Syria. It is located 20 miles (33 kilometers) from the town of Manbij, liberated from IS by Kurdish-led forces earlier this month.

Taking Jarablus and IS-held town of al-Bab to the south would be a significant step toward linking up border areas under Kurdish control on both sides of the Euphrates.

Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said Syrian Kurdish forces “must as soon as possible cross to the east of the Euphrates.”

“That’s what the United States promised. That was our agreement,” he added. “Otherwise, and I say this clearly, we will do what is necessary.”

The Syrian government denounced the Turkish military incursion and called for an immediate end to what it described as a “blatant violation” of Syrian sovereignty. It said Turkish tanks and armored vehicles crossed into Syria under the cover of U.S.-led airstrikes.

Turkey’s private NTV television, which said that up to 20 Turkish tanks crossed the border, earlier Wednesday reported that a small number of Turkish special forces had crossed into Syria as part of the operation. NTV called it an “intruder mission” meant for “pinpoint operations” against IS in Jarablus.

Turkish Prime Minister Binali Yildirim’s office said the whole operation began at 4 a.m. (0100 GMT), with intense Turkish artillery cross-border fire on Jarablus, followed by Turkish warplanes bombing IS targets in the town, Anadolu said.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, an opposition activist group that monitors the civil war, said Syrian rebels who were amassed at the Turkish border crossed into Syria, preceded by Turkish tanks and mine sweepers.

Ahmad al-Khatib, a Syrian opposition activist embedded with the rebels, said some 1,500 opposition fighters were involved. He said the fighters come from the U.S.-backed Hamza brigade, as well as rebel groups fighting government forces in Aleppo, such as the Nour el-Din el Zinki brigade, the Levant Front, and Failaq al-Sham.

Fighters from the powerful and ultraconservative Ahrar al-Sham brigade are also present, he said and confirmed Anadolu’s report that the rebels seized the IS-held village of Kaklijeh near Jarablus.

Later Wednesday, three wounded Syrian opposition fighters were taken back to Turkey, to the city of Gaziantep for treatment, according to Dogan news agency.

There was no immediate word on any fatalities in Wednesday’s operation. Just a few hours after it

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started, Vice President Joe Biden landed in Ankara for talks that include developments in Syria.

Biden's visit comes at a difficult time for ties between the two NATO allies — Turkey is demanding that Washington quickly extradite a U.S.-based cleric blamed for orchestrating last month's failed coup while the United States is asking for evidence against the cleric and that Turkey allow the extradition process to take its course.

Turkey's Hurriyet newspaper quoted Turkish sources as saying Turkish Howitzers and rocket launchers had fired 224 rounds at 63 targets within an hour and 45 minutes, and that the Turkish air raids started just after 6 a.m.

Turkey had declared the border area a "special security zone," and asked journalists not to try access it, citing safety concerns and threats posed by the IS.

In recent days, Turkey increased security measures on its border with Syria, deploying tanks and armored personnel carriers. On Tuesday, residents of the Turkish town of Karkamis, across the border from Jarablus, were told to evacuate after three mortars believed to be fired by IS militants landed there, Dogan reported.

Turkey has vowed to fight IS militants at home and to "cleanse" the group from its borders after a weekend suicide bombing at a Kurdish wedding in southern Turkey killed at least 54 people, many of them children. Turkish officials have blamed IS for the attack.

The Kurdish-led group known as the Syria Democratic Forces, or SDF, recaptured the town of Manbij from IS earlier this month, triggering concerns in Ankara that Kurdish forces would seize the entire border strip with Turkey. The U.S. says it has embedded some 300 special forces with the SDF, and British special forces have also been spotted advising the group.

The Kurds' outsized role in the Syrian civil war is a source of concern for the Syrian government as well. Fierce clashes erupted between the two sides over control of the northeastern province of Hasakeh last week, and Syrian warplanes bombed Kurdish positions for the first time, prompting the U.S. to scramble its jets to protect American troops in the area.

The Syrian government and the Kurds agreed on a cease-fire Tuesday, six days after the clashes erupted. The Kurdish Hawar News Agency said government forces agreed to withdraw from Hasakeh as part of the truce.

Syrian state media did not mention any withdrawal, saying only that the two sides had agreed to evacuate the wounded and exchange detainees. Government and Kurdish forces have shared control of Hasakeh since the early years of the Syrian war.

## **At least 38 dead as strong earth quake rocks central Italy**

**PAOLO SANTALUCIA, Associated Press**

**NICOLE WINFIELD, Associated Press**

AMATRICE, Italy (AP) — A devastating earthquake rocked central Italy early Wednesday, collapsing homes on top of residents as they slept. At least 38 people were killed in hard-hit towns where rescue crews raced to dig survivors out of the rubble, but the toll was likely to rise as crews reached homes in more remote hamlets.

"The town isn't here anymore," said Sergio Pirozzi, the mayor of Amatrice.

The magnitude 6 quake struck at 3:36 a.m. (0136 GMT) and was felt across a broad swath of central Italy, including Rome, where residents felt a long swaying followed by aftershocks. The temblor shook the Lazio region and Umbria and Le Marche on the Adriatic coast.

Premier Matteo Renzi planned to head to the zone later Wednesday and promised: "No family, no city,

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no hamlet will be left behind.”

The hardest-hit towns were Amatrice and Accumoli near Rieti, some 100 kilometers (80 miles) north-east of Rome, and Pescara del Tronto further east. Italy’s civil protection agency said the preliminary toll was 38 dead, several hundred injured and thousands in need of temporary housing, though it stressed the numbers were fluid.

The center of Amatrice was devastated, with entire buildings razed and the air thick with dust and smelling strongly of gas.

Rocks and metal tumbled onto the streets and dazed residents huddled in piazzas as some 39 aftershocks jolted the region into the early morning hours, some as strong as 5.1.

“The whole ceiling fell but did not hit me,” marveled resident Maria Gianni. “I just managed to put a pillow on my head and I wasn’t hit luckily, just slightly injured my leg.”

Another woman, sitting in front of her destroyed home with a blanket over her shoulders, said she didn’t know what had become of her loved ones.

“It was one of the most beautiful towns of Italy and now there’s nothing left,” she said, too distraught to give her name. “I don’t know what we’ll do.”

As daylight dawned, residents, civil protection workers and even priests began digging out with shovels, bulldozers and their bare hands, trying to reach survivors. There was relief as a woman was pulled out alive from one building, followed by a dog.

“We need chain saws, shears to cut iron bars, and jacks to remove beams: everything, we need everything,” civil protection worker Andrea Gentili told The Associated Press. Italy’s national blood drive association appealed for donations to Rieti’s hospital.

The devastation harked back to the 2009 quake that killed more than 300 people in and around L’Aquila, about 90 kilometers (55 miles) south of the latest quake. The town sent emergency teams Wednesday to help with the rescue.

“I don’t know what to say. We are living this immense tragedy,” said the Rev. Savino D’Amelio, a parish priest in Amatrice. “We are only hoping there will be the least number of victims possible and that we all have the courage to move on.”

Another hard-hit town was Pescara del Tronto, in the Le Marche region, where the main road was covered in debris. The ANSA news agency reported 10 dead there without citing the source, but there was no confirmation.

Residents were digging their neighbors out by hand since emergency crews hadn’t yet arrived in force. Photos taken from the air by regional firefighters showed the town essentially flattened; Italy requested EU satellite images of the whole area to get the scope of the damage.

“There are broken liquor bottles all over the place,” lamented Gino Petrucci, owner of a bar in nearby Arquata Del Tronto where he was beginning the long cleanup.

The Italian geological service put the magnitude at 6.0; the U.S. Geological Survey reported 6.2 with the epicenter at Norcia, about 170 kilometers (105 miles) northeast of Rome, and with a relatively shallow depth of 10 kilometers (6 miles).

“Quakes with this magnitude at this depth in our territory in general create building collapses, which can result in deaths,” said the head of Italy’s civil protection service, Fabrizio Curcio. He added that the region is popular with tourists escaping the heat of Rome, with more residents than at other times of the year, and that a single building collapse could raise the toll significantly.

The mayor of Accumoli, Stefano Petrucci, said six people had died there, including a family of four, and two others. He wept as he noted that the tiny hamlet of 700 swells to 2,000 in the summer months, and that he feared for the future of the town.

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"I hope they don't forget us," he told Sky TG24.

In Amatrice, the Rev. Fabio Gammarota, priest of a nearby parish, said he had blessed seven bodies extracted so far. "One was a friend of mine," he said.

Pirozzi estimated dozens of residents were buried under collapsed buildings and that heavy equipment was needed to clear streets clogged with debris.

A 1997 quake killed a dozen people in central Italy and severely damaged one of the jewels of Umbria, the Basilica of St. Francis in Assisi, filled with Giotto frescoes. The Franciscan friars who are the custodians of the basilica reported no immediate damage from Wednesday's temblor.

Pope Francis skipped his traditional catechism for his Wednesday general audience and instead invited pilgrims in St. Peter's Square to recite the rosary with him.

## **In dry, windy West, crews target flames in several states**

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK, Wyo. (AP) — Growing wildfires stoked by windy, dry conditions have destroyed buildings and forced evacuations in California, Washington, Montana and elsewhere.

Here's a look at the major wildfires in the West:

### WYOMING

More firefighters headed to Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks, where large, growing wildfires have closed or threaten key roads and forced the evacuation of a large campground during a busy stretch of the summer tourist season.

The blaze in Grand Teton park made a 5-mile run on Monday, forcing closure of a 10-mile stretch of U.S. 89-191-287 that leads into Yellowstone's South Entrance. More than 4,000 vehicles come and go each day at the site along the main thoroughfare between Jackson and Yellowstone National Park.

About 50 people have been evacuated from campgrounds and a lodge that rents cabins in the area. "This is the 100-year centennial of the National Park Service so there's a lot of celebrations going on," fire spokesman Brian Lawatch said.

The road was expected to remain closed Tuesday as firefighters cleared debris and burned trees that might pose a hazard, he said.

The main fire has burned about 10 square miles since it was started by lightning last month.

In neighboring Yellowstone, a fire grew near West Entrance Road. A team of fire managers was being brought in to help, although the fire was not yet being actively suppressed.

All roads and major tourist areas in Yellowstone remained open as firefighters thinned trees and underbrush near the road. The fire was less than three miles from Madison Junction, an area that includes a campground, visitor facilities and staff housing.

The fire has burned about 42 square miles since it was ignited by lightning on Aug. 8.

### CALIFORNIA

A wildfire on California's central coast grew to nearly 60 square miles Tuesday and destroyed nine more homes, bringing the total to 45.

At least 2,400 people remained under evacuation orders in San Luis Obispo and Monterey counties, where the stubborn blaze is burning.

Hearst Castle, the palatial ocean-view estate popular among tourists, remained closed because of its proximity to the flames, but officials say they are increasingly confident it will be spared.

Several other fires in Central California have burned tens of thousands of acres of brush and prompted evacuations of campgrounds and recreation areas.

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Meanwhile, a fire in mountain areas east of Los Angeles that burned more than 100 homes was contained after charring nearly 57 square miles of drought-stricken brush. Investigators were seeking the cause of the blaze that broke out a week ago.

Just north of Big Sur, California's largest fire grew held steady at 135 square miles in rugged wilderness coast along Highway 1.

More than 400 homes remained threatened by the fire.

## WASHINGTON

Gov. Jay Inslee declared a state of emergency for 20 Washington state counties in response to wildfires that threaten homes and natural resources.

Inslee issued the declaration Tuesday after touring fire scenes in the Spokane region, where evacuations were called and more than a dozen homes have burned.

Inslee noted that hot and windy weather conditions are forecast for the next seven days.

## MONTANA

Firefighters contained a blaze that threatened about two dozen homes in Missoula County.

Evacuation orders for homes near Upper Grant Creek were lifted Tuesday afternoon but authorities asked non-residents to stay out of the area about 4 miles north of Interstate 90 to keep the roadways clear.

A house trailer burned before the fire was contained but the person living there escaped, KECI-TV reported.

Low humidity and gusting winds caused the rapid spread Monday of another fire in northwestern Montana near Lakeside. As many as 100 homes and structures were within a half-mile of the fire's perimeter.

Authorities ordered evacuations east of Thompson Falls after a fire doubled in size to nearly 11 square miles.

## IDAHO

Authorities ordered evacuations in eastern Idaho where a wildfire burning rangeland and habitat of a threatened bird, the sage grouse, ballooned to 40 square miles.

The evacuations were ordered east of Idaho Falls, where up to 70 buildings were threatened near U.S. Highway 26, the Bonneville County Sheriff's Office said Tuesday.

The office also was working with ranchers to get cattle out of the fire's path.

Sunday's human-caused blaze appeared nearly contained but took off in the last several days due to dry conditions and winds of up to 40 mph.

A central Idaho wildfire expanded to 150 square miles and residents of about 125 homes in the area remained under low-level evacuation notices.

The fire burning timber in remote, mountainous backcountry was 50 percent contained and was expected to burn at least until the end of September.

## OREGON

A nearly 50-square-mile fire in eastern Oregon near the Idaho state line was 60 percent contained and threatening Succor Creek State Park.

Elsewhere, a 48½-square-mile blaze on national forest lands west of Unity was 40 percent surround-

ed. Firefighters successfully extinguished small spot fires that erupted as wind-blown embers crossed fire lines.

## UTAH

Crews were battling a small wildfire in northern Utah that was approaching a ski resort and a separate blaze in southern Utah burning through sage grouse habitat.

MaryEllen Fitzgerald of the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest said Tuesday the fire near the Utah-Idaho state line is within a quarter-mile of Beaver Mountain Ski Resort, which is on pre-evacuation notice.

Continuing hot weather and high winds were expected to cause the fire to grow. The fire had blackened less than one square mile and the cause was unknown.

Shayne Ward of the Utah Division of Forestry says the southern Utah fire had grown to nearly five square miles. It was ignited Saturday when a car's broken catalytic converter sent hot debris into grassy rangeland.

Ward said the fire near the town of Richfield was about 27 percent contained and not threatening any homes.

## Deaf driver's shooting death by trooper under investigation

**JEFFREY COLLINS, Associated Press**

**MARTHA WAGGONER, Associated Press**

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — The North Carolina Highway Patrol is urging people not to jump to conclusions as state agents investigate how a deaf driver with a history of minor offenses ended up dead after leading a trooper on a 10-mile chase.

The family of Daniel Kevin Harris said he was unarmed and suggested the sequence of events last week was a tragic misunderstanding — the type the state's training manual warns troopers to avoid when dealing with the hearing impaired.

The investigation into the shooting is ongoing, Secretary Frank Perry of the state Department of Public Safety said in a news release.

"Let us all refrain from making assumptions or drawing conclusions prior to the internal and independent reviews" by the patrol, the State Bureau of Investigation and the district attorney, said Perry, whose agency oversees the Highway Patrol.

Authorities haven't said why Trooper Jermaine Saunders fired, and a review of public records shows a few traffic charges against Harris from other states, including damaging his employer's vehicle with his own car after he was fired last year, according to a Denver police report.

Last Thursday's incident started when Harris did not pull over as Saunders turned on his blue lights on Interstate 485 near Charlotte about 6:15 p.m. and ended after Harris drove down several miles of surface streets to his home. The trooper was trying to pull him over for speeding.

North Carolina's Basic Law Enforcement Training manual has a section that deals with interacting with deaf drivers. "Keep your eyes on the person's hands," it reads. "Deaf people have been stopped by an officer and then shot and killed because the deaf person made a quick move for a pen and pad in his or her coat pocket or glove compartment. These unfortunate incidents can be prevented by mutual awareness which overcomes the lack of communication."

The victim's family said Harris likely didn't understand the officer's commands.

Harris' family said they want to make sure the incident is investigated thoroughly and also want the state to make changes so officers will immediately know they are dealing with a hearing-impaired

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driver.

Authorities have released little information about the investigation, including any possible body camera or dashboard camera footage or whether a gun was found near Harris. Saunders has been placed on administrative leave. A spokeswoman for the SBI didn't respond Tuesday to questions, including whether authorities have interviewed Saunders yet.

Harris' family is raising money for his funeral and will put any extra money toward educating police officers on interacting with hard-of-hearing people and calling for a computerized system to alert officers they are dealing with a deaf driver, according to the family's posting on YouCaring.com.

"You don't see deafness the way that you see the difference in race. We need to change the system," Harris' brother Sam said to reporters using sign language and an interpreter after a Monday night vigil.

Sam Harris is deaf, and so are his brother's parents and other family members. They signed with each other as an Associated Press reporter knocked on their door Tuesday.

Sam Harris didn't want to talk Tuesday but wrote a note leaving an email address for an interpreter, who said no interviews could be conducted that day.

A review by The Associated Press shows Harris had been charged with traffic offenses and other misdemeanors in three states.

In 2015, Denver police were called to Shafer Commercial Seating after Harris was fired. Officials at the chair and tabletop manufacturer said Harris "got very mad and stormed out" after being fired, hitting an employer's vehicle with his own car causing light damage, according to a police report.

A warrant was issued, but never served, but it wasn't clear why. No one answered the phone at Shafer Commercial Seating after hours Tuesday.

Also in Denver, Harris had traffic stops in 2015 and 2008. The five misdemeanor charges filed in 2008 included obstructing a peace officer; all those charges were dropped. It's unclear what happened with the 2015 charge.

He was arrested twice in Florida in 2010 — once for petit theft and once for speeding. A charge of resisting an officer was dropped. That year he pleaded no-contest to petit theft and guilty to speeding.

And in December of that same year, he pleaded guilty to interfering with or resisting police in Water-town, Connecticut.

The National Association of the Deaf works with law enforcement agencies to improve existing training manuals but doesn't have one of its own, CEO Howard Rosenblum said in an email.

The NAD supports intensive training for law enforcement officers on dealing with people who are deaf or hard-of-hearing and says some officers should be trained to communicate in American Sign Language.

Harris was white, and authorities haven't revealed Saunders' race.

## Bangladesh police arrest prime suspect in publisher's murder

NEW DELHI (AP) — Bangladeshi police arrested a leading suspect in last year's killing of a publisher as part of a crackdown on radicals blamed for violent attacks on foreigners, liberals and minorities, an official said Wednesday.

Moinul Islam Shamim was arrested late Tuesday from Tongi area just outside the Bangladesh capital, said Monirul Islam, head of the police counterterrorism and transnational crimes unit. Shamim is a key organizer of the banned group Ansarullah Bangla Team, which is blamed for attacks on atheist bloggers and online activists.

He is suspected of killing publisher Arefin Deepan on Oct. 31 in his office in Dhaka. A similar attack on the same day left another publisher, Ahmed Rashid Tutul, and his two friends seriously injured.



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Shamim, who also uses alias of Sifat, Samir or Imran, is believed to be one of the top four coordinators of the group with knowledge of making bombs, police said.

Police also announced the names of five others allegedly involved in the killings of at least 10 people in recent years.

Deepen and Tutul had published works by Bangladeshi-American blogger and writer Avijit Roy, who was hacked to death in February 2015 while walking with his wife on the Dhaka University campus near an annual book fair premises. The Ansarullah Bangla Team claimed responsibility for the killing. Police have arrested five people in connection with Roy's killing.

The Islamic State group also has claimed responsibility for several attacks since last year, but Bangladesh's government has repeatedly dismissed the idea that the extremist Sunni group has any presence in the country. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's government has instead blamed domestic groups for the attacks.

## 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. MAGNITUDE 6 QUAKE KILLS AT LEAST 37 IN CENTRAL ITALY

The hardest-hit towns are Amatrice and Accumoli, some 80 kilometers (50 miles) northeast of Rome. The toll is expected to rise as crews reach homes in more remote hamlets.

### 2. TURKEY SAYS OPERATION LAUNCHED TO FREE IS-HELD SYRIAN TOWN

As many as 20 tanks reportedly cross into Syria in a bid to liberate Jarablus, following the Turkish foreign minister's pledge of "every kind" of support for operations against the extremist group along a 100-kilometer (62-mile) stretch of Syria's frontier.

### 3. WHY SOME QUESTION TRUMP'S OUTREACH TO AFRICAN-AMERICANS

Many black voters dismiss the GOP nominee's overtures as another racially charged pitch from a campaign aimed exclusively at whites.

### 4. WHO IS GETTING NOSTALGIC ABOUT MITT ROMNEY

Horrified by the prospect of Trump in the White House, Democrats change their tune about the former Massachusetts governor, whom they now describe as principled and competent.

### 5. RAPED BY ISLAMIC STATE GROUP, YAZIDI WOMEN RECOVER IN GERMANY

After escaping the clutches of the extremists, Yasmin, a 17-year-old girl, was so traumatized that she poured gasoline on herself and set it alight. She's one of 1,100 former IS captives, who Germany has brought in for help.

### 6. WHAT'S LATEST SOURCE OF FRICTION BETWEEN TWO KOREAS

South Korea's military says North Korea has fired a missile from a submarine off its east coast into the sea.

### 7. TURKEY TARGETS FETHULLAH GULEN-INSPIRED PROJECTS AROUND WORLD

Ankara launches an international campaign to shut schools and foundations linked to the Muslim preacher it blames for an attempted coup last month.

### 8. CHINA SETS SIGHTS ON NEW GLOBAL EXPORT

The Hualong One, a reactor being built in the country's south, is the flagship for Beijing's ambition to compete with the U.S., France and Russia as an exporter of atomic power equipment.

### 9. U.S. PARK SERVICE SEEKS MINORITIES' SUPPORT

The federal agency faces a challenge of reaching out to minority communities in an increasingly diverse nation and getting them to visit and be invested in preserving national parks.

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## 10. U.S. WOMEN'S GYMNASTICS TEAM FLIPS OVER BROADWAY'S 'HAMILTON'

The gymnasts sit together in Row G to take in Lin-Manuel Miranda's hip-hop-flavored biography about the first U.S. treasury secretary, and then greet the cast onstage afterward.

## UN envoy: No more 'taboo' issues in Cyprus peace talks

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — A U.N. envoy says everything is up for discussion in an intensified phase of ongoing talks aimed at reunifying ethnically divided Cyprus.

Espen Barth Eide says there are no remaining "taboo" issues that the rival leaders would opt to tackle at a later stage.

Eide said Wednesday it's the first time since he took over as peace talks facilitator two years ago that even the toughest issues, including military intervention rights Cyprus' existing constitution grants to Greece, Turkey and Britain, will be discussed.

Cyprus was split in 1974 when Turkey invaded after a coup aiming at union with Greece. Nicos Anastasiades, the Greek Cypriot president of Cyprus' internationally recognized government, and breakaway Turkish Cypriot leader Mustafa Akinci have been engaged in renewed talks since May 2015.

## Japan, China, S. Korea unite in condemning N. Korea missile

MARI YAMAGUCHI, Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — The foreign ministers of China, Japan and South Korea put aside frictions over territorial disputes and wartime history to sharply criticize North Korea's latest submarine missile test on Wednesday in a rare display of unity.

Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida, who chaired the meeting with China's Wang Yi and South Korea's Yun Byung-se, said that North Korea's missile launch is a "provocation that simply cannot be tolerated."

North Korea fired a ballistic missile from a submarine into the Sea of Japan, South Korean and U.S. officials said.

Seoul officials condemned the launch as an "armed protest" against the start of annual South Korean-U.S. military drills that North Korea calls an invasion rehearsal. The launch was also the latest in a series of missile, rocket and other weapon tests by North Korea, which is openly pushing to acquire a reliable weapon capable striking targets as far away as the continental U.S.

Kishida said Tokyo lodged a protest to the North over the missile, and urged his counterparts to step up cooperation as they face the latest development.

"I hope to coordinate closely in order for Japan, China and South Korea to lead the efforts of the international community," he said.

Yun said that North Korea's repeated missile tests this year "demonstrated a rapid advancement of capability" and that he shared the concern over the "urgent situation" with his counterparts. He said the three countries should show unity in tackling the problem.

Wang said the three neighbors, despite problems and difficulties among them, should work together to deal with regional threats like North Korea's missile and nuclear ambitions.

"China opposes North Korea's nuclear and missile process, actions that cause tension on the Korean Peninsula," Wang said in a joint news conference.

The three countries have quarreled on a number of issues, and their foreign ministers' meetings resumed only last year after a two-year hiatus because of strained Chinese-Japanese relations.

Tensions between Tokyo and Beijing also remain high over disputed East China Sea islands, while

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China and South Korea also have frayed recently after Seoul approved the deployment of a U.S. missile defense system against North Korea's threats that Beijing says will harm its security.

During Wednesday's talks, the ministers apparently focused more on the areas where they can cooperate, including disaster prevention, people exchange and the environment, rather than discussing the thorny issues, which are expected to come up at their separate bilateral talks later in the day. Japanese officials said the U.S. missile deployment in South Korea and their ongoing joint military exercises were not mentioned at the trilateral talks.

Officials were seen making sure to avoid further straining their relations, especially with China, ahead of the G-20 summit in the southern Chinese city of Hangzhou in early September. Talks usually start with brief opening remarks for the media, but the ministers at Wednesday's Japan-China talks were silent until all the reporters were out.

While expectations for concrete achievements at the talks were low, Japan was to offer details about the 1 billion yen (\$1 million) fund that Tokyo promised as a way to atone for its wartime sexual abuse of South Korean women.

The fund is part of the landmark agreement reached by the two sides last December in a bid to resolve their decades-old row stemming from Japan's wartime actions. Japan's Cabinet was to approve details of the provision, provided to the women through a South Korean organization launched last month, ahead of Japan-South Korea talks.

## Foundation donors who met, talked with Clinton

WASHINGTON (AP) — Hillary Clinton met or talked by phone with at least 154 people from private interests, such as corporations, during her time as secretary of the state. More than half those people had donated either personally or through companies or groups to the Clinton Foundation or pledged to donate to specific programs through the charity's international arm.

Among them:

—Joseph Duffey, who once worked for Laureate Education, a for-profit education system based in Baltimore, was one of 20 people at a higher education policy dinner with Clinton in August 2009. Weeks earlier, Clinton emailed her staff looking for Duffey's phone number. Duffey, whom Bill Clinton appointed as director of the U.S. Information Agency, gave between \$10,000 and \$25,000 to the foundation in 2012. Laureate, which paid Bill Clinton more than \$17 million as a consultant between 2010 and 2015, donated between \$1 million and \$5 million to the Clinton Foundation. Laureate also has seven commitments with the Clinton Global Initiative.

—Jeffrey Skoll, a Canadian engineer and technology investor who was the first president of internet auction site eBay. He cashed out with \$2 billion in assets and used the money to finance his foundation, a technology investment firm and a Hollywood production company. The Skoll Foundation contributed between \$100,000 and \$250,000 to the Clinton Foundation and has partnered in at least 21 commitments to programs through the Clinton Global Initiative. In May 2009 Sally Osberg, CEO of Skoll's charity, messaged longtime Clinton friend Jan Piercy about "the possibility of Hillary's speaking at next year's Skoll Forum" — a message that was relayed to Clinton. Clinton told aides by email she wanted to attend the Skoll event in the U.K. in March 2012 but was unable to attend. Instead, in April 2012, Clinton met privately with Skoll and Osberg during a State Department-sponsored forum on government-business partnerships. The same month, USAID, the State Department's foreign aid arm, announced a partnership with the Skoll Foundation to invest in health, energy, governance and food security innovations.

—Haim and Cheryl Saban. Haim Saban is an entertainment magnate, long-time Clinton and Democratic Party fundraiser and founder of the Saban Center for Middle East Peace, a Mideast policy think

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tank based in Washington. His wife, Cheryl Saban, is a psychologist and writer who has been a Clinton Foundation board member since 2013. The Sabans donated between \$10 million and \$25 million to the Clinton Foundation — among the largest gifts to the charity. Saban met privately with Clinton at least once in September 2009 and also hosted her twice at events put on by his think tank in June 2012 and again in November 2012. Messages from both Sabans were relayed to Clinton during her tenure. In one following Clinton's appearance at his center luncheon in June 2012, Haim Saban told her: "Very much was looking forward to hangin'. Tx again for today." Clinton replied: "Not to worry. Loved seeing you and Cheryl and looking forward w Bill to White House tonight. See you then."

— John Mack, the former chairman and CEO of Morgan Stanley and a political donation bundler for Clinton's 2008 presidential campaign. In September 2011, as Morgan Stanley chairman, Mack was among a group who met with Clinton on China trade issues. In July 2012, he and his wife were scheduled to have dinner with her. They were again to have dinner with Clinton in September 2012, but Clinton canceled at the last minute, according to her emails and calendars. The Macks' personal charity has given between \$1 million and \$5 million to the Clinton Foundation. Other Morgan Stanley organizations, including the bank itself, have given between \$360,000 and \$775,000. Morgan Stanley has also given money to six different programs through the Clinton Global Initiative.

— Randi Weingarten, president of American Federation of Teachers, a national teachers union that has backed and funded Clinton's presidential run and allied political action committees. Under Weingarten, the AFT donated between \$1 million and \$5 million to the Clinton Foundation and pledged partnership commitments with other interests in four separate Clinton Global Initiative programs. Weingarten had two private meetings with Clinton in 2009 and 2012 and also joined her at a photo shoot in 2010. Her union also lobbied federal agencies on education, work, safety and other issues. In emails, Weingarten aide Tina Flournoy — now a top deputy for Bill Clinton — told Hillary Clinton in September 2009 that she and Weingarten "would like to visit you re: child labor issues." Less than a month later, the two women met with Clinton for a half-hour. A union spokeswoman later told AP that Weingarten spoke with Clinton about refugees, global education and child labor abuses.

## Clinton Foundation donors got face time with her at State

**STEPHEN BRAUN, Associated Press**

**EILEEN SULLIVAN, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — More than half the people outside the government who met with Hillary Clinton while she was secretary of state gave money — either personally or through companies or groups — to the Clinton Foundation. It's an extraordinary proportion indicating her possible ethics challenges if elected president.

Donors who were granted time with Clinton included an internationally known economist who asked for her help as the Bangladesh government pressured him to resign from a nonprofit bank he ran; a Wall Street executive who sought Clinton's help with a visa problem; and Estee Lauder executives who were listed as meeting with Clinton while her department worked with the firm's corporate charity to counter gender-based violence in South Africa.

They are among at least 85 of 154 people with private interests who either met or had phone conversations scheduled with Clinton and also gave to her family's charities, according to a review of State Department calendars released so far to The Associated Press. Combined, the 85 donors contributed as much as \$156 million. The 154 does not include U.S. federal employees or foreign government representatives.

The AP's findings represent the first systematic effort to calculate the scope of the intersecting interests of Clinton foundation donors and people who met personally with Clinton or spoke to her by phone

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about their needs.

The meetings between the Democratic presidential nominee and foundation donors do not appear to violate legal agreements Clinton and former president Bill Clinton signed before she joined the State Department in 2009. But the frequency of the overlaps shows the intermingling of access and donations, and fuels perceptions that giving the foundation money was a price of admission for face time with Clinton. Her calendars and emails released as recently as this week describe scores of contacts she and her top aides had with foundation donors.

Clinton's campaign said the AP analysis was flawed because it did not include in its calculations meetings with foreign diplomats or U.S. government officials, and the meetings AP examined covered only the first half of Clinton's tenure as secretary of state.

"It is outrageous to misrepresent Secretary Clinton's basis for meeting with these individuals," spokesman Brian Fallon said. He called it "a distorted portrayal of how often she crossed paths with individuals connected to charitable donations to the Clinton Foundation."

Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump fiercely criticized the links between the Clinton Foundation and the State Department. "It is impossible to figure out where the Clinton Foundation ends and the State Department begins," he said at a rally Tuesday night in Austin, Texas. "It is now abundantly clear that the Clintons set up a business to profit from public office."

State Department officials have said they are not aware of any agency actions influenced by the Clinton Foundation. State Department spokesman Mark Toner said Tuesday night that there are no prohibitions against agency contacts with "political campaigns, non-profits or foundations — including the Clinton Foundation." He added that "meeting requests, recommendations and proposals come to the department through a variety of channels, both formal and informal."

Last week, the Clinton Foundation moved to head off ethics concerns about future donations by announcing changes planned if she is elected. Those planned changes would not affect more than 6,000 donors who have already provided the Clinton charity with more than \$2 billion in funding since its creation in 2000.

"There's a lot of potential conflicts and a lot of potential problems," said Douglas White, an expert on nonprofits at Columbia University. "The point is, she can't just walk away from these 6,000 donors."

Fallon said earlier Tuesday the standard set by the Clinton Foundation's ethics restrictions was "unprecedented, even if it may never satisfy some critics."

Muhammad Yunus, a Bangladeshi economist who won the 2006 Nobel Peace Prize for pioneering low-interest "microcredit" for poor business owners, met with Clinton three times and talked with her by phone during a period when Bangladeshi government authorities investigated his oversight of a nonprofit bank and ultimately pressured him to resign from the bank's board. Throughout the process, he pleaded for help in messages routed to Clinton, and she ordered aides to find ways to assist him.

Grameen America, the bank's nonprofit U.S. flagship, which Yunus chairs, has given between \$100,000 and \$250,000 to the foundation — a figure that bank spokeswoman Becky Asch said reflects the institution's annual fees to attend CGI meetings. Another Grameen arm chaired by Yunus, Grameen Research, has donated between \$25,000 and \$50,000.

In another case, Clinton was host at a September 2009 breakfast meeting at the New York Stock Exchange that listed Blackstone Group chairman Stephen Schwarzman as one of the attendees. Schwarzman's firm is a major Clinton Foundation donor, but he personally donates heavily to GOP candidates and causes. The next day, according to Clinton emails, the State Department was working on a visa issue at Schwarzman's request. In December that same year, Schwarzman and his wife, Christine, sat at Clinton's table during the Kennedy Center Honors.

Blackstone donated between \$250,000 and \$500,000 to the Clinton Foundation. Eight Blackstone executives also gave between \$375,000 and \$800,000 to the foundation. And Blackstone's charitable arm has pledged millions of dollars in commitments to three Clinton Global aid projects ranging from the U.S. to the Mideast. Blackstone officials did not make Schwarzman available for comment.

And in June 2011, Clinton met with Nancy Mahon of MAC AIDS, the charitable arm of MAC Cosmetics, which is owned by Estee Lauder. The meeting occurred before an announcement about a State Department partnership with MAC AIDS to raise money to finance AIDS education and prevention.

The MAC AIDS fund donated between \$5 million and \$10 million to the Clinton Foundation and several million more in commitments to programs through the Clinton Global Initiative.

## **Horrified by Trump, Democrats getting nostalgic about Romney**

**JOSH LEDERMAN, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — When President Barack Obama ran for re-election, Democrats made no secret of their disdain for Mitt Romney. That was all before Donald Trump.

Horrified by the prospect of Trump in the White House, Obama and his party have changed their tune about Romney. As they denounce Trump as "unhinged" and unfit, they're getting nostalgic about the 2012 Republican nominee they now describe as principled, competent and honorable.

It's a sharp reversal from four years ago. Back then, Democrats spent hundreds of millions of dollars portraying the former Massachusetts governor as a callous, unpatriotic, pet-abusing caricature of the uber-rich.

Yet as Trump is proving, everything in politics is relative.

"He was in it for the right reasons," Stephanie Cutter, Obama's 2012 deputy campaign manager, said of Romney. "He truly believed in wanting to make this country better. We just differed significantly on how to do that."

Cutter said that in 2012 Democrats had ideological clashes with Romney, but didn't doubt his temperament or basic competence. She said unlike Trump, Romney didn't "insult his way through his campaigning," malign minorities, or threaten to violate the Constitution or to abandon U.S. allies.

New York Rep. Steve Israel, one of the Democratic Party's top campaign strategists, said "Romney was qualified, but he had the wrong ideas. Trump is unqualified, dangerous and still has the wrong ideas."

And Obama's 2012 campaign press secretary, Ben LaBolt, put it this way: "I don't think anybody would have truly expected the country to go to hell in a handbasket" if Romney had won. "Trump presents an entirely different level of threat," he said.

Rewind to 2012.

A pro-Obama super PAC aired a TV ad indirectly alleging that Romney caused a woman's death. Democrats accused him of animal cruelty over a decades-old story about Seamus, the family dog, forced to ride rooftop on a road trip. Vice President Joe Biden told a largely black audience that Romney and his running mate were "going to put y'all back in chains."

All the while, Obama attacked Romney's business record ruthlessly, as Democrats questioned whether Romney's use of offshore accounts made him unpatriotic. Obama's campaign even suggested Romney might have committed a felony by misrepresenting his employment status to federal regulators.

It's this year's great irony that the same Democratic attacks that landed hard on Romney seem to bounce right off of Trump. Where Romney had to downplay his wealth, Trump boasts of his riches, and brushes off controversies over remarks perceived as insensitive to women or minorities.

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Russ Schriefer, a top Romney adviser in 2012, said he hoped Democrats were learning that words matter, even in politics. He described a campaign equivalent of "The Boy Who Cried Wolf."

"Don't be surprised when your accusations against Trump are falling upon deaf ears and aren't working, when you've used them in the past against a person for whom the descriptions didn't fit," he said.

But Israel, who oversaw Democrats' efforts to win House seats that year, said he didn't think the attacks had gone too far. After all, Romney and Republicans were similarly tough on Obama, calling him a liar and a failed president.

"The rhetoric gets heated on both sides of the aisle in any campaign," Israel said.

Many Republicans, too, have declared Trump dangerous and unsuitable for the Oval Office. Chief among them is Romney, who implored fellow Republicans during the primary not to nominate Trump and called him a phony, a fraud, a bully and a con man.

"I have never seen anything like it, and kudos to Romney for having the courage of his convictions when it comes to Trump," said Dan Pfeiffer, Obama's White House communications director during the campaign.

These days, even Obama seems to acknowledge that Romney wouldn't have been awful — at least not compared to Trump. Earlier this month, Obama said he would have been disappointed had he been defeated by Romney in 2012 or by Sen. John McCain in 2008, but never questioned either Republican's ability to do the job.

A representative for Romney declined to comment on Democrats' newfound affection. But Eric Fehrnstrom, a longtime Romney adviser, called it an attempt to make GOP voters more comfortable with the idea of voting for Clinton.

"He knows whatever expressions of support for him now coming from Democrats are purely political," Fehrnstrom said. "They're totally insincere."

## WHY IT MATTERS: Supreme Court

MARK SHERMAN, Associated Press

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

WASHINGTON (AP) — THE ISSUE: No one likes an even number on a court that makes decisions by majority vote. Yet that's just what the Supreme Court has been left with, eight justices, since the death of Antonin Scalia in February.

Four cases ended in a tie after Scalia's death. With Senate Republicans refusing to confirm President Barack Obama's choice to succeed Scalia, the outcome of the presidential election will determine whether the ninth, tie-breaking justice moves the court right or left. How much can one vote matter?

In key decisions in recent years on health care, gun rights, same-sex marriage, voting rights and campaign finance, the vote was 5-4. And more Supreme Court appointments probably await the next president because two justices will be older than 80 and a third will be 78 come Election Day.

### WHERE THEY STAND

Both Democrat Hillary Clinton and Republican Donald Trump have made the future of the Supreme Court part of their pitch to their respective party faithful. In talking about the court, Clinton has stressed her support for abortion rights, LGBT issues and immigration. Trump has released a list of 11 conservative state and federal judges whom he would consider nominating if elected.

### WHY IT MATTERS

The current vacancy is the moment both sides alternately have wished for and feared. Supreme Court nominations are always important because a justice can serve a quarter century or more. But the stakes are even higher when the president has a chance to put a like-minded justice on the court to take the place of an ideological opponent. Such a switch can change the outcome of some of the court's most important cases.

That's the tantalizing opportunity for Democrats and why Republicans have been resolute in refusing to consider Obama nominee Merrick Garland. Though Garland has a reputation as a moderate, he still would be left of Scalia on most issues.

A Clinton victory in November would, with the confirmation of Garland or someone else as the ninth justice, immediately shift the court to the left and result in a majority of justices nominated by a Democratic president for the first time since 1969.

If Trump is elected, he presumably would restore the court's conservative tilt by appointing a like-minded successor to Scalia.

So the direction of a court closely divided between conservatives and liberals is at stake. The Supreme Court may be the least understood of the three branches of government, but its decisions affect Americans rich and poor.

A switch of one vote would have doomed Obama's health care overhaul in 2012, kept the heart of a voting rights law in place in 2013 and prevented some Americans from marrying their same-sex partners in 2015.

Chances are Trump or Clinton will have other Supreme Court vacancies to fill, nominations that could cement conservative or liberal domination of the court for decades.

Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg is 83, Justice Anthony Kennedy is 80, and Justice Stephen Breyer is 78. Justices tend to retire when their replacement is likely to be of similar ideology.

Garland or another Democratic nominee could be expected to reinforce support for abortion rights, look favorably on executive actions to deal with immigration and climate change and be more willing to uphold campaign finance restrictions. Trump's choices probably would come down on the other side of those issues and be more skeptical about gun control and consideration of race in higher education as well.

## Scores sagging for high school grads taking ACT college test

**JENNIFER C. KERR, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Nearly two-thirds of this year's high school graduates took the ACT college entrance exam, and their scores suggest that many remain unprepared for the rigors of college-level coursework.

The testing company said Wednesday that only 38 percent of graduating seniors who took the exam hit the college-prepared benchmark in at least three of the four core subjects tested — reading, English, math and science — down from 40 percent last year. The benchmark is designed to measure a strong readiness for college.

The average composite score also declined a bit, down from 21 to 20.8 this year. The four tests are scored on a scale of 1 to 36. The composite is the average of the four scores. The vast majority of colleges use the composite in admissions.

ACT's Paul Weeks says a decline in scores was expected, given the changing demographic of the testing population.

"Almost 2 out of 3 students are taking the ACT and what's happened is the testing cohort has become increasingly representative of students at large," said Weeks, senior vice president for client relations,



in an interview.

A number of additional states also are giving the ACT to all of their 11th-grade students. "That group of new states showed up in this year's grad class report so we would have expected it to have an impact" on scores, Weeks said.

Nearly 2.1 million graduating seniors took the ACT, up from 1.9 million in the last school year.

By comparison, 1.7 million graduating seniors in 2015 took the SAT, the other major college entrance exam. The College Board expects to release updated 2016 numbers for the SAT later this fall.

Of the ACT-tested high school graduates this year, 61 percent met the English benchmark of 18 points, which indicates a student is likely ready for a college composition course and would earn a "C" or better grade.

In reading, 44 percent met the 22-point mark that suggests readiness for a college-level social-sciences course. For math, 41 percent met the 22-point threshold that predicts success in an algebra course. And in science, 36 percent hit the 22-point score that predicts success in an entry-level biology course.

In contrast, 34 percent of 2016 grads did not meet any of the four benchmarks. Weeks called that number alarming, an indication that those students are likely to struggle with first-year courses and end up in remedial classes that will delay degree completion and increase college costs.

The report showed a relatively wide gulf, by race, in the percentages of graduates hitting three or more of the college-ready benchmarks. Forty-nine percent of white test-takers met the three-or-more benchmark, compared to 11 percent of African Americans and 23 percent of Hispanic test-takers. But the gaps between the groups haven't shifted that much, for better or worse, in the last four years.

When students register for the ACT, they can designate a college major. For 2016 grads, the most popular major selected was nursing, followed by pre-medicine, business administration and management and mechanical engineering.

Other findings in the annual score report:

—Massachusetts had the highest average composite score, at 24.8. It was followed by Connecticut and New Hampshire, both with a 24.5 average composite score.

—In the last four years, the proportion of students saying they would like to pursue vocational/technical and two-year degrees increased by 2 percent. The proportion aspiring to higher levels of education dropped by 6 percent.

The testing company says 20 states funded ACT testing for all public school students in the 2016 graduating class. Those states are: Alabama, Alaska, Colorado, Hawaii, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, North Carolina, North Dakota, South Carolina, Tennessee, Utah, Wisconsin and Wyoming.

## **Blacks question Trump outreach delivered to white audiences**

**BILL BARROW, Associated Press**

**ERRIN HAINES WHACK, Associated Press**

AKRON, Ohio (AP) — Black Republicans cheer Donald Trump for a newfound outreach to African-Americans, but say the GOP presidential nominee must take his message beyond arenas filled with white supporters and venture into the inner cities.

Many rank-and-file black voters, meanwhile, dismiss the overtures as another racially charged pitch from a campaign aimed exclusively at whites, from Trump's emphasis on "law and order" to his withering critiques of President Barack Obama, the nation's first black chief executive. It was Trump in 2011 who fiercely challenged Obama's U.S. birth.

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"Any minority who would vote for him is crazy, ought to have their head examined," said Ike Jenkins, an 81-year-old retired business owner in the predominantly black suburb of East Cleveland.

Foluke Bennett, a 43-year-old from Philadelphia, went further, labeling the GOP standard-bearer's remarks as "racist," pointing, among other things, to his referencing African-Americans as "the blacks."

Trump is scheduled on Wednesday to appear in Jackson, Mississippi, an 80 percent African-American city and capital of the state with the nation's highest proportion of black residents. It is unclear whether he will address black voters directly; so far, his appeal to them has been delivered before white audiences in mostly white cities.

Mississippi is overwhelmingly Republican because of whites' loyalties, as opposed to battlegrounds such as Ohio, Pennsylvania and Florida, states Obama won twice and where the largest cities offer at least a theoretical chance for Trump to pursue marginal shifts among significant black populations.

Trump has already rejected high-profile speaking slots at the NAACP's annual gathering, along with events sponsored by the Urban League and the National Association of Black Journalists.

"He's got to take his arguments to the streets," said Brandon Berg, a black pastor who drove Monday from Youngstown, Ohio, to hear Trump at the University of Akron. Berg said he's an outlier: an undecided black Republican. For most African-Americans, Berg said, Trump must "meet them where they are."

It's a well-known electoral conundrum: The United States population grows less white with each election cycle, so to defeat Democrat Hillary Clinton, the New York billionaire must attract more non-white voters or run up an advantage with white voters to a level no candidate has reached since Ronald Reagan's 1984 landslide.

Obama won 93 percent of black voters in 2012 and 95 percent in 2008, according to exit polls. This year, polls suggest Trump could fare even worse than the Republicans who lost to Obama.

Trump has confronted his steep path in the last week, asking minorities, "Give Trump a chance!"

In Wisconsin, he declared to minorities: "You live in poverty, your schools are no good, you have no jobs, 58 percent of your youth is unemployed? What the hell do you have to lose?" He argues illegal immigration disproportionately affects economic opportunities of blacks and Hispanics.

In Ohio, he insisted without evidence that foreign "war zones" are "safer than living in some of our inner cities." He pledged a Trump administration would "get rid of the crime," allowing minorities to "walk down the street without getting shot."

Calvin Tucker, the lone black GOP convention delegate from Pennsylvania, says Trump's arguments resonate with him. "We need a change agent," said Tucker, 64, of Philadelphia. "He's breaking down his overall economic platform and relating it to African-Americans," Tucker added, extolling the GOP's emphasis on entrepreneurial pursuits.

Certainly, each Trump pronouncement drew roaring approval from his rally audiences. Many black voters, however, hear the appeal differently.

As he sold Cleveland Cavaliers NBA championship swag, street vendor Steve T, 47, said the "disrespectful" comments represent "the real Trump."

"Not all of us live in poverty, crime," he said. "You can't get votes from people you don't even understand."

In Philadelphia, Bennett said, "It's crazy to think that he would have the audacity to ask us what we have to lose. If anything, his comments just made the line even more clear as to why black people won't vote for him."

In East Cleveland, Jenkins and several other retirees gathered in a neighborhood restaurant echo many of Trump's arguments. James Smith, a 79-year-old former butcher, points out the window and laments "a community that's old and poor." Jenkins says "handouts keep people in slavery." Randall Darnell blasts an economy that traps laborers, black and white, in "legalized slavery."

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But every one plans to vote for Clinton, and nearly all said they see Trump's latest arguments aimed more at whites.

"He's talking about black people" when he mentions violence in cities, Smith said, "not to black people."

Leah Wright Rigueur, author of "The Loneliness of the Black Republican" and a professor at the Harvard Kennedy School, said Trump's approach so far amounts to "him lecturing black people to a group of whites."

Trump has aides dedicated to African-American outreach. Jeffrey Green, an officer of the Ohio Black Republicans Association, says additional minority outreach is planned. "He's already been meeting with pastors," Green says.

The Republican National Committee recently hired Ashley Bell, a black Republican from Georgia, to lead its African-American outreach program. For his part, Bell said Trump's latest comments are a good start, but must go further to include black success alongside the community's challenges.

"At least we're having the conversation," Bell said. "Now we need to make sure we have it in the right context."

And aides said Tuesday that in the coming weeks Trump was planning trips to urban areas to conduct campaign stops he has largely avoided to this point, including stops at charter schools, small businesses and churches in black and Latino communities.

The Trump campaign's potential plans to visit inner cities were first reported Tuesday by The Washington Post.

## Forced relocations raise doubts over Jordan's tribal customs

LAYLA K. QURAN, Associated Press

IRBID, Jordan (AP) — It was four in the morning when Asma Dawaghreh fled her home with her sick husband and six children. With nothing but the loose change in her pockets, she packed her family into a car and left under the cover of darkness.

Her family is one of dozens uprooted every year in the kingdom under the tribal practice of "jalwa"—Arabic for "eviction"—in which an entire clan can be forced to relocate because of a crime committed by a family member.

In Dawaghreh's case, a nephew on her husband's side of the family stabbed his cousin to death, forcing three dozen relatives to flee their village in northern Jordan.

The Dawaghrehs fled pre-emptively, fearing revenge killings, and then found that they were barred from returning. In exile, they were pressured into selling their supermarket, the family's source of income.

Three years on, they have moved home six times and are increasingly impoverished.

"I can't even afford to buy bread now. What is my crime? What is my son's crime ... my husband's crime?" said the 40-year-old, speaking in the family's latest refuge, a run-down apartment in the northern city of Irbid. "We had no business in this."

Jalwa predates the 1946 founding of modern Jordan. It is rooted in tribal tradition, under which the practice was applied in cases of murder or rape when the assailant and the victim lived in the same area.

Although jalwa is not written into Jordanian civil law, the practice continues unchallenged — and sometimes with the support of civil institutions — because of the country's strong tribal influence. Over the years, tribal leaders and local authorities have arranged the forced relocation of hundreds of people across the country. In some cases, relatives of the attacker as distant as a fifth cousin have had

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to move.

Supporters say forced relocation prevents blood feuds between tribes, while critics denounce it as collective punishment.

The government is now trying to scale back the practice, proposing to limit forced relocation to the perpetrator and his immediate family. The initial period of banishment would be one year, with the possibility of extension.

The proposed amendment was adopted by the Cabinet earlier this year. It now awaits approval by parliament and a signature by King Abdullah II. If the amendment is passed, it will be the first time jalwa is enshrined in civil law.

An Interior Ministry official in charge of tribal affairs said the government is trying to adapt tribal law to modern times.

Jordanians have homes and jobs, and can't just pack up tents and move to a different area, as during their nomadic past, said the official, Turki Akho Arsheidah. "We have to implement these amendments to adapt to the 21st century."

Jalwa is still being practiced, to varying degrees, across the Middle East, with forced relocation more common in rural areas than in cities. Although some governments have tried to curb the practice — either through outright bans or by negotiating with tribes — the tradition remains powerful. This is particularly true in countries like Yemen, where the state has deteriorated.

Jordan is unusual because of the strong tribal influence on the government.

"In Jordan, tribal identity is connected to Jordanian identity," said Israeli historian Yoav Alon. Instead of ending tribal customs, the government has tried to strike a compromise with the tribes, who are the mainstay of the Hashemite monarchy.

In one high-profile murder case, hundreds of people were forced to leave the southern Jordanian town of Karak earlier this year in a jalwa deal negotiated by Deputy Prime Minister Mohammed Thneibat. As part of the agreement, the victim's clan reserved the right to kill any members of the assailant's family if they returned to the community, local media said at the time.

Constitutional law expert Omar Jazi said jalwa amounts to collective punishment and violates the constitution.

"You cannot deprive anyone of his or her constitutional right, that can't be tolerated," he said. "Jalwa does not make sense within a civic society, within the rule of law, and within the type of society we are living in."

Some tribal leaders argue that reforms would be difficult to carry out and that Jordanians prefer the swift justice of tribal law.

"Civil law is weak, it could take up to six years or more for a court case to proceed," said Sheik Hayeel al-Hadeed, a tribal leader from the capital, Amman.

The plight of the Dawaghreh family illustrates the practical difficulties of enforcing jalwa in modern times.

Before the eviction, the family lived with other clan members in an apartment complex in a village south of Irbid. Dawaghreh asked that the name of the community be withheld, to avoid causing harm to relatives through renewed public attention.

They fled their home in 2013, almost immediately after receiving a call from a relative informing them of the killing.

A year later, some members of the assailant's clan reached a financial settlement with the victim's family, including payment of 50,000 dinars (\$70,000) in blood money.

In theory, the deal enabled them to return — but Dawaghreh said she had been pressured to sell their supermarket to the victim's family.

As a result, the family bounced from apartment to apartment, struggling to pay rent. Paint peels from the cracked walls of her current home in Irbid. Dawaghreh cooks or babysits to make money. Her husband, who has cancer, works as a security guard. Dawaghreh wants jalwa abolished, but is not hopeful. "No one can interfere in the jalwa of the tribes, not the government, not the members of parliament ... not the ministries, nobody."

## **1 killed, 29 wounded as 2 bombs hit southern Thailand**

PATTANI, Thailand (AP) — Two bombs exploded near a hotel in insurgency-wracked southern Thailand, killing one employee and wounding 29 people, police and hospital officials said Wednesday.

The explosions occurred late Tuesday outside the Southern Hotel in Pattani, one of the biggest towns in a region where Muslim separatists have waged an insurgency since 2004 that has left more than 6,000 people dead.

The first bomb exploded in the hotel's car park, but caused no casualties, said police Lt. Sirisak Wungkulum. He said the second bomb planted in an Isuzu car went off 20 minutes later in front of the hotel, killing a 25-year-old woman who worked in the restaurant.

Hospital officials said 29 people were wounded.

The explosions damaged several rooms and other facilities, ignited fires, mangled motorcycles parked outside and blew away the facade.

It was the fourth car bombing this year in Thailand's south, the only Muslim area in the Buddhist majority country.

A wave of bombings on Aug. 11-12 in seven provinces, including tourist spots that have not been targeted previously, killed four people and wounded several dozen. The government has not specified who it believes was behind the attacks, but analysts strongly suspect they were carried out by southern separatists.

## **China sets sights on new global export: nuclear energy**

**JOE McDONALD, AP Business Writer**

BEIJING (AP) — On a seaside field south of Shanghai, workers are constructing a nuclear reactor that is the flagship for Beijing's ambition to compete with the United States, France and Russia as an exporter of atomic power technology.

The Hualong One, developed by two state-owned companies, is one multibillion-dollar facet of the Communist Party's aspirations to transform China into a creator of profitable technology from mobile phones to genetics.

Still, experts say Beijing underestimates how tough it will be for its novice nuclear exporters to sell abroad. They face political hurdles, safety concerns and uncertain global demand following Japan's Fukushima disaster.

China's government-run nuclear industry is based on foreign technology but has spent two decades developing its own with help from Westinghouse Electric Co., France's Areva and EDF and other partners. A separate export initiative is based on an alliance between Westinghouse and a state-owned reactor developer.

The industry is growing fast, with 32 reactors in operation, 22 being built and more planned, according to the World Nuclear Association, an industry group. China accounted for eight of 10 reactors that started operation last year and six of eight construction starts.

Abroad, builders broke ground in Pakistan last year for a power plant using a Hualong One, supported

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by a \$6.5 billion Chinese loan. Also last year, Argentina signed a contract to use the reactor in a \$15 billion plant financed by Chinese banks.

Sales come with financing from state banks, a model that helped Chinese companies break into the market for building highways and other public works in Africa and the Middle East. State-owned companies also are lining up to invest in nuclear power plants in Britain and Romania.

"This is generating significant build-up of skills and industrial experience," said Mycle Schneider, a nuclear energy consultant in Paris, in an email.

Still, Beijing is "seriously underestimating" how hard global sales will be, said Schneider. He said obstacles include strict quality controls, regulations that differ from country to country and competition from the falling cost of wind and solar.

"There is simply no market out there," said Schneider.

At home, Beijing faces public unease about nuclear power following an avalanche of industrial accidents and product safety scandals.

This month, thousands of residents of Lianyungang, north of Shanghai, protested after rumors spread that a facility to process nuclear waste might be built there. Authorities said the city, home to one of China's biggest nuclear power plants, was only one of several being considered. After more protests, they announced the search for a site was suspended.

Overseas, China's nuclear companies face questions over their status as arms of the state.

British Prime Minister Theresa May ordered a security review of plans to allow China General Nuclear Power Corp. to become a minority investor in the planned Hinkley Point C power station being built by EDF.

In response, China's ambassador to London wrote in The Financial Times newspaper that a delay might harm official ties.

The Hualong One under construction in Fuqing, near the southeastern city of Fuzhou, is a hybrid created by CGN and its main rival, China National Nuclear Corp., after they were ordered in 2011 to merge two competing reactors into a single export product.

Based on French systems of the 1970s and '80s, it belongs to the industry's third generation of reactors, with more advanced safety features and working life of 60 years instead of the previous generation's 40.

CNNC is installing two Hualong One reactors at the Fuqing Nuclear Power Plant, due to go online in 2019 and 2020. The power station also has two Areva units and is building two more.

CGN is building its own version in Fangchenggang on the southern coast near Vietnam and says it wants to seek British regulatory approval of the Hualong One design for possible use in a power plant in Bradwell on Britain's east coast.

China's nuclear industry has yet to report a major accident but reflexive official secrecy makes it hard for outsiders to assess its safety.

Changes in Chinese-designed models based on foreign technology, such as making reactors bigger while using cooling techniques for smaller units, "raise questions about safety and the good judgment of Chinese reactor engineers," said Edward Lyman, a nuclear power specialist for the Union of Concerned Scientists in Washington, in an email.

"It is crucial for countries importing Chinese nuclear technology to rigorously conduct their own oversight over the products they are buying," Lyman said.

China's first commercial nuclear plant went online in 1991 in Qinshan, south of Shanghai in Zhejiang province. Over the next decade, Beijing tested competing technologies by buying reactors from U.S., Russian, French and other suppliers.

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Chinese companies couldn't export models they developed because foreign companies owned the underlying technology.

So last year, Beijing declared nuclear power one of 16 "national science and technology projects," with generous financial support to develop homegrown know-how.

The ruling party's latest five-year development plan calls for China to have 58 gigawatts of nuclear generating capacity by 2020 and another 30 gigawatts under construction. By 2030, it wants 120 to 150 gigawatts of nuclear capacity supplying 8 to 10 percent of China's power.

China's status as an important market for global suppliers gives Beijing leverage in acquiring technology. Westinghouse, which was acquired by Japan's Toshiba Corp. in 2006, Areva and France's EDF have had partnerships with Chinese researchers since the early 1990s.

"I see them as customers, competitors and partners," said Jeff Benjamin, Westinghouse's senior vice president for new plants and major projects.

Other global suppliers include GE Hitachi Nuclear Energy, South Korea's KEPCO, Canada's Candu Energy Inc. and Russia's Atomstroyexport.

Westinghouse transferred technology for its latest reactor, the AP1000, to China's State Nuclear Power Technology Corp. in 2007 as part of a transaction that included the sale of four reactors.

The AP1000 became the basis for future Chinese reactor development and Westinghouse agreed to sell reactors with SNPTC. The Chinese partner, which merged with another state company to form the State Power Investment Corp. last year, also developed its own, bigger version, the CAP1400.

The two companies are in talks with Turkey about selling four reactors based on the AP1000.

The AP1000 has been approved by U.S. and British regulators, Benjamin said, while the CAP1400 is just beginning the review process.

"We look forward to participating in the China market for many years to come," he said. Abroad, "there will be markets either SPIC on their own or Westinghouse on our own might not have access to, but together we can gain access."

## Turkey launches operation to free IS-held Syrian town

**SUZAN FRASER, Associated Press**

**PHILIP ISSA, Associated Press**

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — Turkey's military and the U.S.-backed coalition forces on Wednesday launched an operation to clear a Syrian border town from Islamic State militants, Turkey's prime minister's office said.

The state-run Anadolu Agency said the operation, which started hours after Turkey indicated it would step up its engagement in Syria, began at 4 a.m. with Turkish artillery launching intense fire on Jarabulus from the Turkish town of Karkamis, followed by Turkish warplanes bombing IS targets in the town.

Haber Turk television and Hurriyet newspaper, citing unnamed military sources, said a ground offensive has not started. Hurriyet said efforts were underway to open a "passage" into the region. It quoted the sources as saying Turkish Howitzers and rocket launchers had fired 224 rounds at 63 targets within an hour and 45 minutes, and that the Turkish air raids started just after 6 a.m.

The Anadolu Agency said the operation aims to clear Turkey's border of "terror organizations" and increase border security. It said the aim also is to "prioritize and support" Syria's territorial integrity, prevent a new refugee wave and provide humanitarian aid in the region.

The operation was launched hours before U.S. Vice President Joe Biden was due in Ankara for talks that include developments in Syria.

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The prime minister's office said a border area in Turkey had been declared a "special security zone," and asked journalists not to try access it, citing safety concerns and threats posed by the IS.

On Tuesday, Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlet Cavusolgu pledged "every kind" of support for operations against IS along a 100-kilometer (62-mile) stretch of Syrian frontier, putting the NATO member on track for a confrontation with U.S.-backed Kurdish fighters in Syria, who have been the most effective force against IS and who are eyeing the same territory.

"It is important that the terror organizations are cleansed from the region," Cavusolgu said in a joint news conference with his Hungarian counterpart.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitoring group said some 500 Syrian rebels were massed on the Turkish side of the border in preparation for an assault, including local fighters from Jarablus. One rebel at the border told the BBC the number was as high as 1,500 fighters.

The latest developments have thrust the town into the spotlight of the ongoing Syrian civil war. Jarablus, which lies on the western bank of the Euphrates River where it crosses from Turkey into Syria, is one of the last important IS-held towns standing between Kurdish-controlled areas in northern Syria.

Located 20 miles (33 kilometers) from the town of Manbij, which was liberated from IS by Kurdish-led forces earlier this month, taking control of Jarablus and the IS-held town of al-Bab to the south would be a significant step toward linking up border areas under Kurdish control east and west of the Euphrates River.

Turkey had increased security measures on its border with Syria, deploying tanks and armored personnel carriers in recent days. On Tuesday, residents of the Turkish town of Karkamis, across the border from Jarablus, were told to evacuate after mortars believed to be fired by IS militants landed there.

Turkey has vowed to fight IS militants at home and to "cleanse" the group from its borders after a weekend suicide bombing at a Kurdish wedding in southern Turkey killed at least 54 people, many of them children. Turkish officials have blamed IS for the attack.

Ankara is also concerned about the growing power of U.S.-backed Syrian Kurdish forces, who it says are linked to Kurdish groups waging an insurgency in southeastern Turkey.

The Kurdish-led group known as the Syria Democratic Forces, or SDF, recaptured Manbij from IS earlier this month, triggering concerns in Ankara that Kurdish forces would seize the entire border strip with Turkey. The U.S. says it has embedded some 300 special forces with the SDF, and British special forces have also been spotted advising the group.

Syrian activists, meanwhile, said that hundreds of Turkish-backed Syrian opposition fighters were gathered in the Turkish border area near Karkamis in preparation for an attack on Jarablus.

Nasser Haj Mansour, an SDF official on the Syrian side of the border, said the fighters gathering in Turkey include "terrorists" as well as Turkish special forces. He declined to comment on whether the SDF would send fighters to the town, but an SDF statement said the Syrian Kurdish force was "prepared to defend the country against any plans for a direct or indirect occupation."

The reports and rhetoric appeared to set up a confrontation between the SDF, the most effective U.S. proxy in Syria, and NATO ally Turkey.

A rebel commander affiliated with the SDF was killed shortly after broadcasting a statement announcing the formation of the so-called Jarablus Military Council and vowing to protect civilians in Jarablus from Turkish "aggression."

The Jarablus Military Council blamed the killing on Turkish security agents. There was no immediate comment from Turkey. Haj Mansour said two suspects were in custody but declined to comment on their identities.



## US women's gymnastics team flips over Broadway's 'Hamilton'

MARK KENNEDY, AP Drama Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — How do you follow winning Olympic gold at the Rio Olympics? How about a chance to see "Hamilton" on Broadway?

The Tony Award-winning smash musical on Tuesday night welcomed the U.S. women's gymnastics team — Simone Biles, Aly Raisman, Gabby Douglas, Madison Kocian and Laurie Hernandez — who gave the show a standing ovation and greeted the cast onstage afterward at the Richard Rodgers Theatre.

The gymnasts, dressed in slacks and button-downs or rompers, sat together in Row G to take in Lin-Manuel Miranda's hip-hop-flavored biography about the first U.S. treasury secretary, a night that had athletic gold meeting theatrical gold.

"I thought you were amazing," Raisman told Tony Award-nominee Brandon Victor Dixon, who just happened to be making his debut appearance replacing Tony Award-winner Leslie Odom Jr. as Aaron Burr.

"Gymnastics is my favorite Olympic sport, hands-down. Since the days of Kim Zmeskal, I've been about the U.S. gymnastics team. So, I love these ladies. I'm so proud of them. I worship them. I think they're amazing and I got so hyped when I heard they were in the audience tonight," Dixon said.

The U.S. women's team won gold while also winning its second straight Olympic title and third overall. The team won a total of nine medals, including a record-tying four gold medals for Biles.

The women had to rush through Times Square — at one point virtually sprinting through the crowds — to get to the theater in time after taping "The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon" at Rockefeller Plaza.

Rhonda Faehn, senior vice president of USA Gymnastics' women's program, said adding "Hamilton" to their busy post-Olympic schedule was an "opportunity of a lifetime." While they were in Rio, Biles' coach would blast the "Hamilton" cast album for the athletes. "It was just meant to be," Faehn said.

The cast and crew took turns taking photos with the athletes after the show and Renée Elise Goldsberry, who plays Angelica Schuyler, brought her young daughter to meet the so-called Final Five. Goldsberry and her fellow Schuyler sisters — Lexi Lawson and Jasmine Cephas Jones — then posed for a photo with the five athletes, their hands in the air as they riffed off a lyric in the show by shouting "Work!"

The show has been celebrated for putting African-American, Asian and Latinos at the center of America's birth and the U.S. Olympic team is a mix of races and ethnicities — black, white, Latina, Jewish.

"They're just like tiny versions of us," said Okieriete Onaodowan, who plays both Hercules Mulligan and James Madison. "It's amazing but it's also remarkable what they're doing, just to be able to perform and not choke under that pressure. At a young age, to be able to perform that way and keep your cool? I'm totally impressed."

The night before, the Broadway cast welcomed U.S. swimmer Maya DiRado, who won two golds, a silver and bronze at Rio. She brought both of her gold medals to the show to share with the cast. She and the Final Five join a long list of celebrities at "Hamilton" including Beyonce, Kanye West, Bill Clinton, Julia Roberts, Eli Manning, Dave Matthews and Andre 3000.

## Dream team of historians proposed to advise US president

**COLLIN BINKLEY, Associated Press**

BOSTON (AP) — Imagine a dream team of the nation's top historians, recruited by the White House to advise the president on major decisions. That's the idea being pitched by two Harvard University scholars who say many United States leaders know alarmingly little about history, both of their own country and of others.

Professors Graham Allison and Niall Ferguson are calling on the next U.S. president to create a Council of Historical Advisers that would tackle present problems by looking to the past.

Trying to take down a terrorist group? The council would scour historical records to find similar groups, and then analyze which strategies worked against them.

Facing a financial crisis? The council would glean lessons from past meltdowns and report their findings to the president.

"I think there would be more than enough work for a council of applied historians," said Allison, a professor of government and director of Harvard's Belfer Center, a university think tank.

In an online manifesto published this month, the professors said they aim to close a "history deficit" in the White House. They contend that few leaders from any presidential administration have shown a deep understanding of history in the Middle East, for example, or of the United States' involvement in the region.

The scholars are urging U.S. presidential candidates to promise they will create the council if elected. Campaigns for Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump did not respond to requests for comment. The White House did not immediately comment on the proposal.

U.S. Rep. Tom Cole, a Republican from Oklahoma and a former history professor, said in an interview that the council would have value only if the president wanted its advice. Still, Cole said he supports the idea.

"We need leaders to understand the importance of making historically informed decisions. Most of them don't," Cole said.

Others question whether academic historians could keep up with the pace of the White House, or if they could all agree.

"The idea that historians would reach consensus on anything is a lovely idea that's not well borne out in practice," said Jon Alterman, a senior vice president of the Center for Strategic and International Studies, a think tank in Washington, D.C., and a former State Department staff member under President George W. Bush.

Alterman, who has a doctorate in history from Harvard, added that "the kind of history that is useful to policymakers is the kind of history fewer and fewer historians are doing."

The Harvard professors modeled their proposal after the Council of Economic Advisers, a White House agency led by three economists who are appointed to advise the president. Allison said that if economists and foreign policy experts are allowed a regular spot at the president's table, historians deserve a place, too.

"There's nobody around with a crystal ball, so the question is whether they can add value compared to the competition, and I believe they can," Allison said.

By making the proposal, the professors are also trying to revive the practice of "applied history" — using history as a tool to tackle modern predicaments.

The idea has fallen out of favor at many U.S. colleges, Allison said, but he believes it could draw interest to history departments with lagging enrollment numbers.

## Asian stocks meander, dollar up on North Korea's missile

**YOUKYUNG LEE, AP Business Writer**

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Asian stocks meandered Wednesday as investors awaited fresh cues from Federal Reserve on the outlook for interest rates. Markets were steady following the submarine launch of a ballistic missile by North Korea.

KEEPING SCORE: Japan's Nikkei 225 rose 0.6 percent to 16,590.00 on rising hopes for more stimulus from the Bank of Japan and government stimulus, while Australia's S&P/ASX 200 added 0.2 percent to 5,564.40. But South Korea's Kospi fell 0.2 percent to 2,045.77 and Hong Kong's Hang Seng index lost 0.7 percent to 22,848.38. The Shanghai Composite index was almost unchanged at 3,088.88. Markets in Southeast Asia were mixed.

ANALYST'S TAKE: "Traders are stuck in limbo, aware that there is some BOJ uncertainty on how they will deal with a strengthening yen; while the near-term Fed outlook is equally clouded, not the best landscape to look for absolute trends," said Stephen Innes, a senior trader at OANDA.

FED WATCH: Investors are awaiting a speech Friday by Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen at an annual conference of central bankers in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. The Fed is not expected to raise interest rates at its September meeting, but Yellen's comments will be dissected for clues on the likelihood and timing of a future hike.

TENSIONS IN KOREAS: Rattling nerves in northeast Asia, North Korea fired a ballistic missile from a submarine early Wednesday. The missile traveled about 500 kilometers (310 miles) in what officials in Seoul said was the longest flight yet by that type of North Korean weapon, one that could put much of rival South Korea within range.

WALL STREET: U.S. stocks posted modest gains on Tuesday, after a report of a big jump in sales of new homes last month. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 0.1 percent to 18,547.30. The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 0.2 percent to 2,186.90 and the Nasdaq composite rose 0.3 percent to 5,260.08.

OIL: Prices rose overnight after Iran signaled it might support other OPEC member in production freezes. But prices fell back Wednesday on news of rising inventories. Benchmark U.S. crude fell 53 cents to \$47.57 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract rose 69 cents to \$48.10 a barrel on Tuesday. Brent crude, used to price oil internationally, lost 42 cents to \$49.54.

CURRENCIES: The dollar gained to 100.36 yen from 100.30 yen while the euro fell to \$1.1299 from \$1.1304.

## Today in History The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Wednesday, Aug. 24, the 237th day of 2016. There are 129 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Aug. 24, A.D. 79, long-dormant Mount Vesuvius erupted, burying the Roman cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum in volcanic ash; an estimated 20,000 people died.

On this date:

In 1572, the St. Bartholomew's Day massacre of French Protestants at the hands of Catholics began in Paris.

In 1814, during the War of 1812, British forces invaded Washington, D.C., setting fire to the Capitol

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(which was still under construction) and the White House, as well as other public buildings.

In 1821, the Treaty of Cordoba (kohr-DOH'-buh) was signed, granting independence to Mexico from Spanish rule.

In 1912, Congress passed a measure creating the Alaska Territory. Congress approved legislation establishing Parcel Post delivery by the U.S. Post Office Department, slated to begin on January 1, 1913.

In 1932, Amelia Earhart embarked on a 19-hour flight from Los Angeles to Newark, New Jersey, making her the first woman to fly solo, non-stop, from coast to coast.

In 1949, the North Atlantic Treaty came into force.

In 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the Communist Control Act, outlawing the Communist Party in the United States.

In 1968, France became the world's fifth thermonuclear power as it exploded a hydrogen bomb in the South Pacific.

In 1970, an explosives-laden van left by anti-war extremists blew up outside the University of Wisconsin's Sterling Hall in Madison, killing 33-year-old researcher Robert Fassnacht.

In 1981, Mark David Chapman was sentenced in New York to 20 years to life in prison for murdering John Lennon. (Chapman remains imprisoned.)

In 1989, Baseball Commissioner A. Bartlett Giamatti (juh-MAH'-tee) banned Pete Rose from the game for betting on his own team, the Cincinnati Reds.

In 1992, Hurricane Andrew smashed into Florida, causing \$30 billion in damage; 43 U.S. deaths were blamed on the storm.

Ten years ago: The International Astronomical Union declared that Pluto was no longer a full-fledged planet, demoting it to the status of a "dwarf planet"; Patricia Tombaugh, the widow of Pluto discoverer Clyde Tombaugh, called the decision "disappointing" and "confusing."

Five years ago: A defiant Moammar Gadhafi vowed from hiding to fight on "until victory or martyrdom" and called on residents of the Libyan capital and loyal tribesmen across his North African nation to free Tripoli from the "devils and traitors" who had overrun it. Steve Jobs resigned as CEO of Apple Inc.; he was succeeded by Tim Cook. Mike Flanagan, a Cy Young winner and part of the Baltimore Orioles' 1983 World Series championship team, was found dead outside his home in Monkton, Maryland; he was 59.

One year ago: U.S. Airman Spencer Stone, National Guardsman Alek Skarlatos, their longtime friend Anthony Sadler and British businessman Chris Norman were presented with the Legion of Honor by French President Francois Hollande (frahn-SWAH' oh-LAWND'), who credited them with tackling a heavily armed attacker and preventing carnage on a high-speed train headed to Paris. Driver Justin Wilson, 37, died one day after he was struck in the head by a piece of debris during the Verizon IndyCar Series race at Pocono Raceway.

Today's Birthdays: Composer-musician Mason Williams is 78. Rhythm-and-blues singer Marshall Thompson (The Chi-Lites) is 74. Rock musician Ken Hensley is 71. Actress Anne Archer is 69. Actor Joe Regalbuto is 67. Actor Kevin Dunn is 61. Former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee is 61. Actor-writer Stephen Fry is 59. Actor Steve Guttenberg is 58. Baseball Hall of Famer Cal Ripken Jr. is 56. Actor Jared Harris is 55. Talk show host Craig Kilborn is 54. CBS News correspondent Major Garrett is 54. Rock singer John Bush is 53. Actress Marlee Matlin is 51. Basketball Hall of Famer Reggie Miller is 51. Broadcast journalist David Gregory is 46. Country singer Kristyn Osborn (SHeDaisy) is 46. Movie director Ava DuVernay is 44. Actor-comedian Dave Chappelle is 43. Actor James D'Arcy is 43. Actor Carmine Giovinazzo is 43. Actor Alex O'Loughlin is 40. Actress Beth Riesgraf is 38. Actor Chad Michael Murray is 35. Christian rock musician Jeffrey Gilbert (Kutless) is 33. Singer Mika is 33. Actor Blake Berris is 32. Actor Rupert Grint ("Harry Potter" films) is 28.

Thought for Today: "Show me a man who cannot bother to do little things and I'll show you a man who cannot be trusted to do big things." — Lawrence D. Bell, American aircraft manufacturer (1894-1956).