

# 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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## 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 Flihs • Angela Mettler

10:00am: NEC Golf at Redfield

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

## Friday, Aug. 26

### Pool Hours:

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

### National Dog Day

### Women's Equality Day

**Senior Menu:** Breaded codfish, parsley buttered potatoes, creamy coleslaw, sherbet, whole wheat bread.

**School Breakfast:** Breakfast pizza, fruit, juice or milk.

**School Lunch:** Pepperoni pizza, carrots and dip, green beans, fruit.

**Anniversary:** Bill & Eileen Schuelke

**Birthdays:** Jana Duncan • Doris Craig • Carly Wheeting • Dustin LaMee

7:00pm: Football at Oakes (streamed live at [gdilive.com](http://gdilive.com))

## Apts for Rent

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

## JOHNSON AGENCY

Real Estate & Insurance

Jay Johnson, Broker

[www.johnsonagencygroton.com](http://www.johnsonagencygroton.com)

102 N Main St.  
Groton, SD 57445

Office: 605/397-2424  
Home: 605/397-8565



## And Finally!....

### Referred Law 20

**Title:** An Act lowering the State minimum wage for non-tipped employees under age 18

#### Attorney General Explanation

State law requires employers to pay all non-tipped employees a minimum wage, with limited exceptions. Currently, that amount is \$8.55 per hour. State law also requires that the minimum wage be adjusted, effective on January 1 of each year, by any increase in the cost of living as measured by the U. S. Department of Labor's Consumer Price Index.

Referred Law 20, if approved, would lower the existing State minimum wage to \$7.50 per hour for non-tipped employees under age 18. In addition, no annual cost-of-living wage adjustment would be required for the youth minimum wage.

The referred law would also prohibit employers from taking any action to displace an employee or reduce an employee's hours, wages, or benefits, in order to hire someone at the youth minimum wage.

A vote "Yes" is for lowering the minimum wage to \$7.50 per hour for non-tipped employees under age 18.

A vote "No" is against the referred law.

#### Pro – Referred Law 20

Young people in South Dakota deserve a fair shot at a first job. That's why South Dakota residents should vote YES on Referred Law 20 – SB 177, an Act that establishes a youth training wage while respecting the will of voters to raise the minimum wage for adults.

When South Dakota approved a minimum wage increase last November, voters might not have realized that the policy could unintentionally price the state's youngest jobseekers out of the workforce. Sadly, the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office confirms that this is what happens when the minimum wage goes up.

That's the problem; SB 177 is the solution.

A study published by Cornell University found that the creation of a youth training wage can help alleviate the negative effects of a minimum wage increase on young employees. It makes intuitive sense: If the state's small businesses can pay a training wage to young adults who don't have extensive workplace experience, they're less likely to "downsize" that job.

That means young people will continue to receive all benefits associated with a first job, like higher pay and greater job security in the future.

Economists have shown that just 20 hours of part-time work per week during the senior year of high school results in annual earnings that are 20 percent higher after graduation, relative to young adults who don't work. Another study shows that young adults who are unemployed today are missing out on more than a paycheck---they're also at a greater risk of future unemployment.

You can't start climbing the career ladder without a first rung.

A youth training wage provision would ensure that, even as the minimum wage in South Dakota rises, this first rung still exists.

Michael Saltsman

Research Director

Employment Policies Institute

Saltsman@EPIOnline.org

#### Con – Referred Law 20

Voting NO on Referred Law 20 keeps the current minimum wage for all workers. Voting NO on 20 prevents the creation of an unnecessary and undemocratic sub-minimum wage for teenagers. The state legislature attempted to create this "youth minimum wage" in 2015, but thousands of South Dakota voters prevented that pay cut from taking effect by signing a petition to refer it to a statewide vote. Voting NO on 20 stops that pay cut for good.

There are two reasons to vote NO on 20.

First, Referred Law 20 attacks South Dakota voters. In November 2014, we passed Initiated Measure

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18 by a 55% to 45% margin. This statewide vote raised the state minimum wage from \$7.25 an hour to \$8.50 an hour with an annual inflation adjustment. Thanks to that measure, the state minimum wage is now \$8.55 an hour. The state legislature attempted to undermine this measure by creating a lower sub-minimum wage of \$7.50 an hour for workers under age 18.

This youth minimum wage tries to overturn our majority vote in the 2014 election. Thus, voters who respect South Dakota's long history of direct democracy should vote NO on Referred Law 20.

Second, Referred Law 20 is also entirely unnecessary. Despite dire warnings from legislators backing the youth minimum wage, South Dakota's labor market has continued to expand and unemployment has decreased.

Paying young workers the same minimum wage as adults helps younger workers earn more to support their families and go to college without harming South Dakota's strong economy.

Please, vote NO on Referred Law 20. This legislation attacks the will of South Dakota voters and serves no good purpose in our robust labor market.

Reynold F. Nesiba  
201 S. Menlo Ave  
Sioux Falls, SD, 57104

## **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**

## Rest Area Revitalization Plan Available for Comment

PIERRE, S.D. - The South Dakota Department of Transportation and Department of Tourism are seeking public comments on a proposed plan to update and revitalize the state's interstate rest areas.

Earlier this year, a task force visited each of the state's rest areas to study the condition, functionality and accessibility of the facilities and have proposed a three to five year improvement plan, which is available on the SDDOT website at <http://www.sddot.com/resources/reports/InterstateRestAreaFinalReport.pdf>.

Currently, there are 21 rest areas located along interstates 29 and 90 in South Dakota, with 13 currently functioning as staffed information centers during the summer months.

Major elements of the plan call for reconstructing the rest areas at the I-90 Minnesota/South Dakota border (Valley Springs) and the I-29 Iowa/South Dakota border (Homestead) as Welcome Centers, and adding additional space to the I-29 rest area near the North Dakota border (Wilmot) to include a Welcome Center. When the Welcome Centers at the interstate borders become operational, the staffed information centers at other rest areas will be closed.

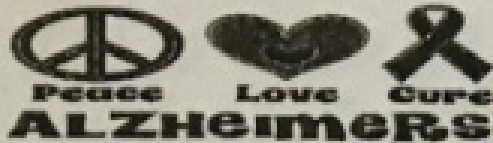
"The rest areas at our borders are likely to be the first impression a traveler has of South Dakota," says Jim Hagen, secretary of Tourism. "I appreciate the time and effort the task force spent visiting each rest area to come up with a plan to better serve our citizens and visitors at these locations."

Other elements of the plan include remodeling or upgrading the rest areas at Wasta, Belvidere, Presho, White Lake and Salem on I-90 and Ward Road and Glacial Lakes on I-29. Upgrades will address ADA accessibility needs as well as an updated security camera system. It is proposed to close the rest areas at Tilford on I-90 near Sturgis and at Hidewood on I-29 near Watertown leaving the parking areas functional.

"Providing a safe and efficient infrastructure is one of our top priorities and the state's rest areas are an integral part of that," says Darin Bergquist, secretary of Transportation. "Safety rest areas were designed with parking to offer a motorist a place to rest, use the restroom, stretch and rejuvenate."

Written comments on the proposed rest area revitalization plan can be provided via email to [dotgeneralinfo@state.sd.us](mailto:dotgeneralinfo@state.sd.us) or mailed to:

Darin Bergquist, Secretary  
South Dakota Department of Transportation  
700 East Broadway Ave.  
Pierre, SD 57501-2586



## 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**





## 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®



### FUN FALL FISHING FOR AGGRESSIVE SMALLMOUTH

Early fall smallmouth can be aggressive. Usually 4" plastic tubes, worms, minnows and lizards in crayfish and minnow colors worked slowly are the best bait for fall smallmouth.

For jigheads, use the rattling kind, and if you use tube baits, stuff them with rattles. Start and stop retrieves will also catch more smallmouth.

Early fall smallmouth are getting themselves ready for the cold winter ahead by eating as much as they can. They gather in schools and roam around any type of structure until they have wiped out the food there and then move on to the next structure holding food for them.

If they stop biting, they have probably moved on, so you might as well move on too until you find them again.

You can also get in on some smallmouth surface action in the mornings during early fall around weed beds.

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

*For more tips, go to  
basspro.com and click on ISource  
News & Tips*

**If there is an active shooter at the school,  
you must have**

# P A T I E N C E



**Brown County Emergency Director Scott Meints talks about the procedure in the high school gym before the shooter event drill was to begin.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



**Patti Woods from the Brown County Emergency Management office helped to coordinate between law enforcement and fire and rescue.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)

It has been a year and a half in the making, and on Wednesday morning, a variety of agencies gathered at the Groton Area High School where an active shooter drill was played out.

"If it would have been a real event, there would have been many, many more law enforcement other agencies here," said Superintendent Joe Schwan. "Everyone in Northeast South Dakota would have been here." Groton's surveillance system would be tied into the Brown County Emergency Management van.

Scott Meints, Brown County Emergency Management Director, said of the exercise, "I think it went really well. We tested the procedures and policies of the school. I hope we find some weaknesses, nothing critical, but we can learn and tweak the policies and plan. We'll be talking about it in the after action meeting. We'll talk about what went right and what we need to work on. There will be some follow-up meetings in the weeks to come. We'll compile all the information from the evaluators and the participants we'll put together a game plan of what we need to look at and maybe make better."

In the event of an active shooter, both the elementary and the high school buildings would be in lock down. The outside doors would immediately be locked. All students would immediately go to a room where the teachers would lock and secure the doors and



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send the students to a predetermined safe wall. Once the shooter was reprimanded, a generic message would be sent through the school's all-call system, instructing parents where to go for the reunification process. "Every room would have to be cleared in an active situation," Meints said. "We would start the reunification processes as soon as we can. Obviously it's going to take a considerable amount of time and there will be some parents that will be a little over anxious," he said. "It's critical that parents understand that we're here to keep your kids safe and the folks are doing their best to make that happen. They need to be patient in the reunification process. It is not something that happens with the snap of a finger. It's going to be hooourrs in a real event. That's one of the hardest things is the reunification process."



**The two evaluators for the Groton Area School were Mike Kroll, Warner School Superintendent, and Jim Block, Webster Area School Superintendent. Groton Area Superintendent Joe Schwan was talking with them after the event.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)

Schwan said that when both schools go into lock down, the law enforcement would be the only ones to allow one school to be released.

Over the years, the school board has invested a lot of money in the district's surveillance system. Schwan said, "The school's surveillance system worked surprisingly well. The whole exercise went well and it was a learning experience."

Meints said that Groton Area was the first rural Brown County School to have this drill. It has been done in two other schools in Aberdeen. "It takes a lot of time, a lot of money and a lot of people to pull this off," Meints said. "We



**Members of Groton Fire and Rescue help several people who were shot at the event.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



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**Officer Justin Cleveland and a SD Highway Patrolman reprimanded the "shooter" who was played by Ross Erickson of the Brown County Sheriff's Office.** (Photo

by Paul Kosel)



**Members of Groton Fire and Rescue check on a casualty of the event, who happened to be Andrea Eisenbeisz, the local coroner.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)

did one small table top session to prepare ourselves last summer. And we're doing this the day before school starts so it's fresh in everyone's mind." When asked why the drill wasn't done during a school day, he said, "We didn't want to put the stress on the kids. If we would have been here with a full school day, there would be considerable stress for those students and we felt we didn't want to do that. We felt, though, that it was important enough for us to practice."

The agencies that were involved besides the Groton Area School included the Groton Police Department, Groton Fire and Rescue, Brown County Emergency Management, Brown County Sheriff and the South Dakota Highway Patrol. Agencies that came to help evaluate were Codington County Emergency Management, Hamlin Co Sheriff's Office, SD DCI, Avera St Luke's, Webster Area School District, Warner School District, SD Office of Emergency Management.

Schwan said that each agency had two observers (wearing yellow vests). Evaluators wore a white vest and the media wore a red vest. Meints said there were close to 80 people involved. Schwan said that the school had about that many as well involved with the event. Diane Kurtz, one of the teachers, described what she did once the school was forced into lock down. "We closed the door and locked it. The door was barricaded with student desks and an extension cord was used to tie it from one door handle with another one. We went to the safe wall designated with a picture of a tiger. We turned off the lights and sat quietly." Kurtz said she normally had 19 to 25 students in her classroom. "I've never had problems with the students during a drill." To prepare for the event, Kurtz said that she reviewed a safety handbook. "I feel I'm prepared as much as you possibly can be."

It makes you think about different scenarios. I feel prepared as much as you possibly can be.

Groton Police Officer Jerry Bjerke was the first "live" officer to enter the building. "When I got here," he said, "we already had an officer down and that's not a good feeling. In a real life situation, 99.5 percent of the students are locked in their rooms. You're going to have some casualties because some will not be locked in a room." Bjerke's advice to students: "Get in a room and secure it. When the school goes into lock-down, the students are suppose to be in a room immediately and lock the door."

Of the event, Schwan said, "Everyone did a fine job."

- Paul Kosel



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## South Dakota West Nile Virus (WNV) Update, 24 August 2016

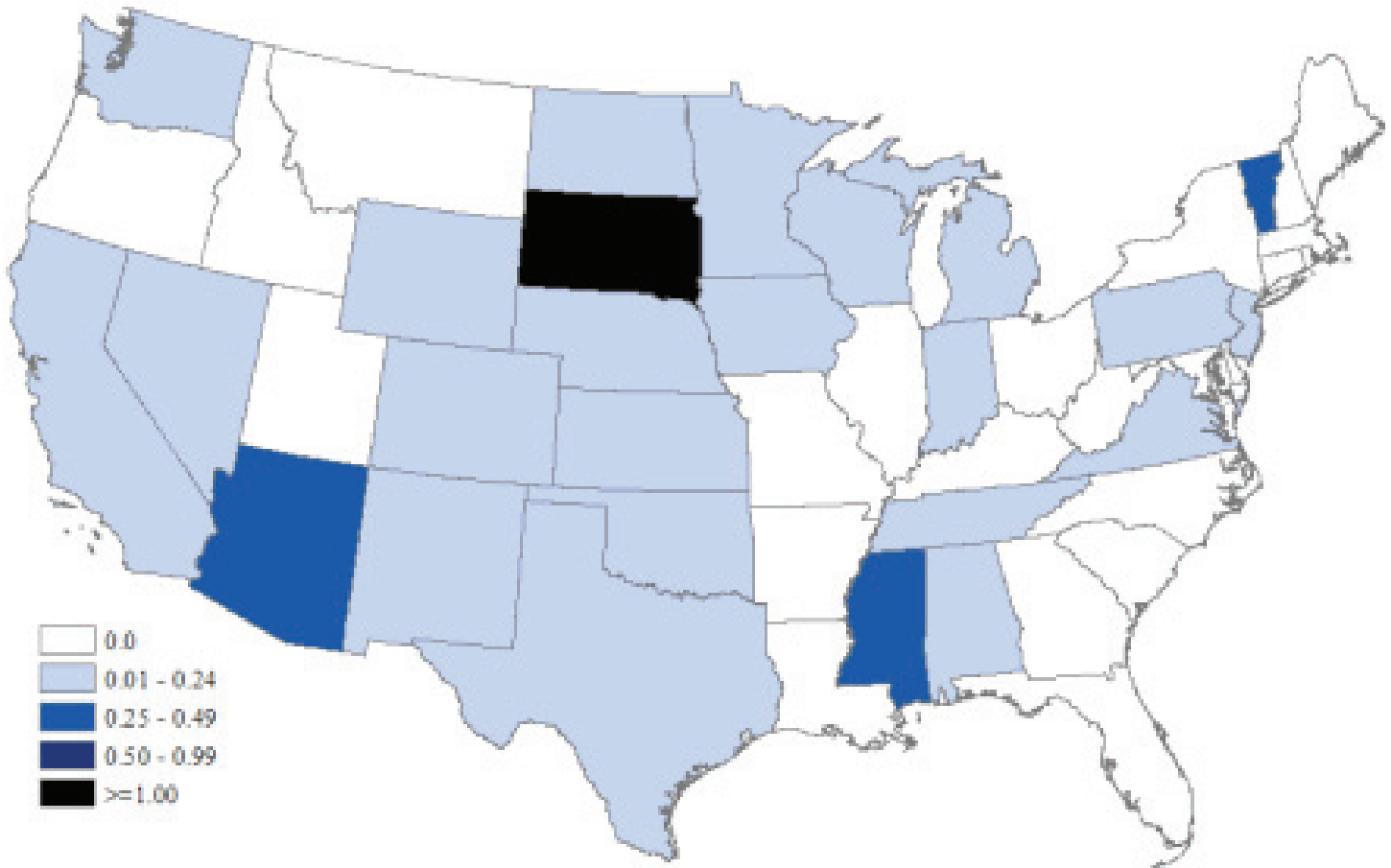
64 human cases of West Nile virus disease have been reported to the SD Department of Health.

§ Illness: 16% neuroinvasive disease, 84% WNV fever, 26% hospitalized.

§ Counties with human WNV cases: Aurora, Beadle 7, Bon Homme, Brookings 4, Brown 10, Brule, Campbell, Charles Mix 3, Clark 2, Codington 2, Davison 2, Day, Douglas, Faulk, Grant, Hamlin 2, Hanson, Hutchinson, Jerauld, Lawrence, Lake 2, Lincoln 3, Marshall, McCook, Minnehaha 3, Potter, Spink 5, Todd, Union, Walworth, Yankton.

§ Deaths: 0.

§ Viremic blood donors: 10.



Nationally 301 human WNV cases have been reported from 31 states. In addition, 12 other states have reported non-human WNV detections.

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State	Neuro-invasive	Fever	Total	Deaths	WNV + Blood Donors
Alabama	1	4	5	0	1
Arizona	18	9	27	2	6
Arkansas	0	1	1	0	0
California	16	6	22	1	7
Colorado	10	22	32	1	4
Georgia	0	0	0	0	2
Idaho	0	1	1	0	0
Illinois	0	5	5	0	0
Indiana	1	0	1	0	0
Iowa	2	0	2	0	1
Kansas	4	3	7	1	1
Louisiana	0	1	1	0	3
Michigan	1	0	1	0	1
Minnesota	1	1	2	0	2
Mississippi	10	2	12	0	3
Montana	0	0	0	0	1
Nebraska	2	17	19	0	11
Nevada	2	0	2	1	0
New Jersey	1	0	1	0	0
New Mexico	1	0	1	0	0
North Dakota	1	10	11	0	0
Oklahoma	1	3	4	0	1
Pennsylvania	1	1	2	0	0
<b>South Dakota</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>
Tennessee	1	1	2	0	0
Texas	45	23	68	0	10
Vermont	2	0	2	0	0
Virginia	1	0	1	0	0
Washington	2	0	2	1	0
Wisconsin	2	0	2	0	0
Wyoming	1	0	1	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>301</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>64</b>



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## Today in Weather History

August 25, 1990: Severe thunderstorms moved across central and northeastern South Dakota produce golf ball size hail and wind gusts exceeding 60 mph. One storm produced a weak F0 tornado touchdown between Bowdle and Roscoe in Edmunds County causing little damage.

1814: In the early afternoon, a strong tornado struck northwest Washington D.C. and downtown. The severe tornadic storm arrived the day after the British Troops had set fire to the Capitol, the White House, and other public buildings. The storm's rains would douse those flames. The tornado did major structural damage to the residential section of the city. More British soldiers were killed by the tornado's flying debris than by the guns of the American resistance. The storm blew off roofs and carried them high up into the air, knocked down chimneys and fences and damaged numerous homes. Some homes were destroyed. It lifted two pieces of cannon and deposited them several yards away. At least 30 Americans were killed or injured in the heavily damaged buildings and an unknown number of British were killed and injured.

1885 - A severe hurricane struck South Carolina causing 1.3 million dollars damage at Charleston. (David Ludlum)

1940 - New Jersey experienced its coldest August morning of record, with lows of 32 degrees at Layton and Charlotteburg. (The Weather Channel)

1948: One of the worst tornadoes to strike New Zealand occurred at Hamilton on this day. This estimated F2tornado killed three people, injuring dozens, and destroying or severely damaging almost 150 houses and 50 business premises in Hamilton and Franklin.

1987 - Morning thunderstorms produced heavy rain in eastern Nebraska and southwestern Iowa. Stanton IA reported 10.50 inches of rain. Water was reported up to the handle of automobiles west of Greenwood NE. Rainfall totals for a two day period ranged from 7 to 14 inches across southwestern Iowa. Crop damage was in the millions for both states. Subsequent flooding of streams in Iowa the last week of August caused millions of dollars damage to crops, as some streams crested ten feet above flood stage. (Storm Data)



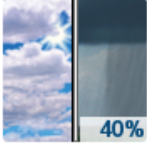




1988 - Seven cities in California reported record high temperatures for the date, including Sacramento with an afternoon reading of 104 degrees. Thunderstorms produced locally heavy rains in Arizona. Chino Valley was drenched with 2.50 inches of rain in just thirty minutes washing out a couple of streets in town. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Morning thunderstorms drenched Spencer, IN, with 4.10 inches of rain in three hours causing extensive street flooding. Evening thunderstorms in eastern Kansas produced up to six inches of rain around Emporia, and four inches of rain in just forty-five minutes near Parsons, and also produced wind gusts to 70 mph at Lake Melvern. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

2005 - Katrina becomes a hurricane just before landfall in south Florida between Hallandale Beach and North Miami Beach. Maximum sustained winds at the time of landfall were near 80 mph. There were eleven fatalities in South Florida, including four by falling trees. More than 1.3 million customers lost electrical services, and preliminary insured loss estimates ranged from \$600 million to \$2 billion in the state of Florida (Associated Press).

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Today	Tonight	Friday	Friday Night	Saturday	Saturday Night	Sunday
						
Mostly Sunny	Mostly Clear	Partly Sunny then Chance Showers	Chance Showers	Chance T-storms	Partly Cloudy	Sunny
High: 70 °F	Low: 46 °F	High: 71 °F	Low: 54 °F	High: 76 °F	Low: 56 °F	High: 85 °F



## Forecast for Today:

Highs around 70°

Northwest Winds  
10 to 20 mph



National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD

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



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen

Updated:

4am Central 8/25/2016

Published on: 08/25/2016 at 4:03AM

Rain free conditions will continue through this evening, before precipitation slides in from the west Friday and Friday night as a system nears the region. Temperatures will top out around 70 degrees this afternoon. Near to below normal high temperatures will remain through Saturday.



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## Yesterday's Weather

**High Outside Temp: 77.2 F at 5:04 PM**

**Low Outside Temp: 53.1 F at 6:54 AM**

**High Gust: 20.0 Mph at 10:02 AM**

Precip: 0.00

## Today's Info

**Record High: 101° in 1926**

**Record Low: 38° in 1896**

**Average High: 80°F**

**Average Low: 54°F**

**Average Precip in Aug: 1.96**

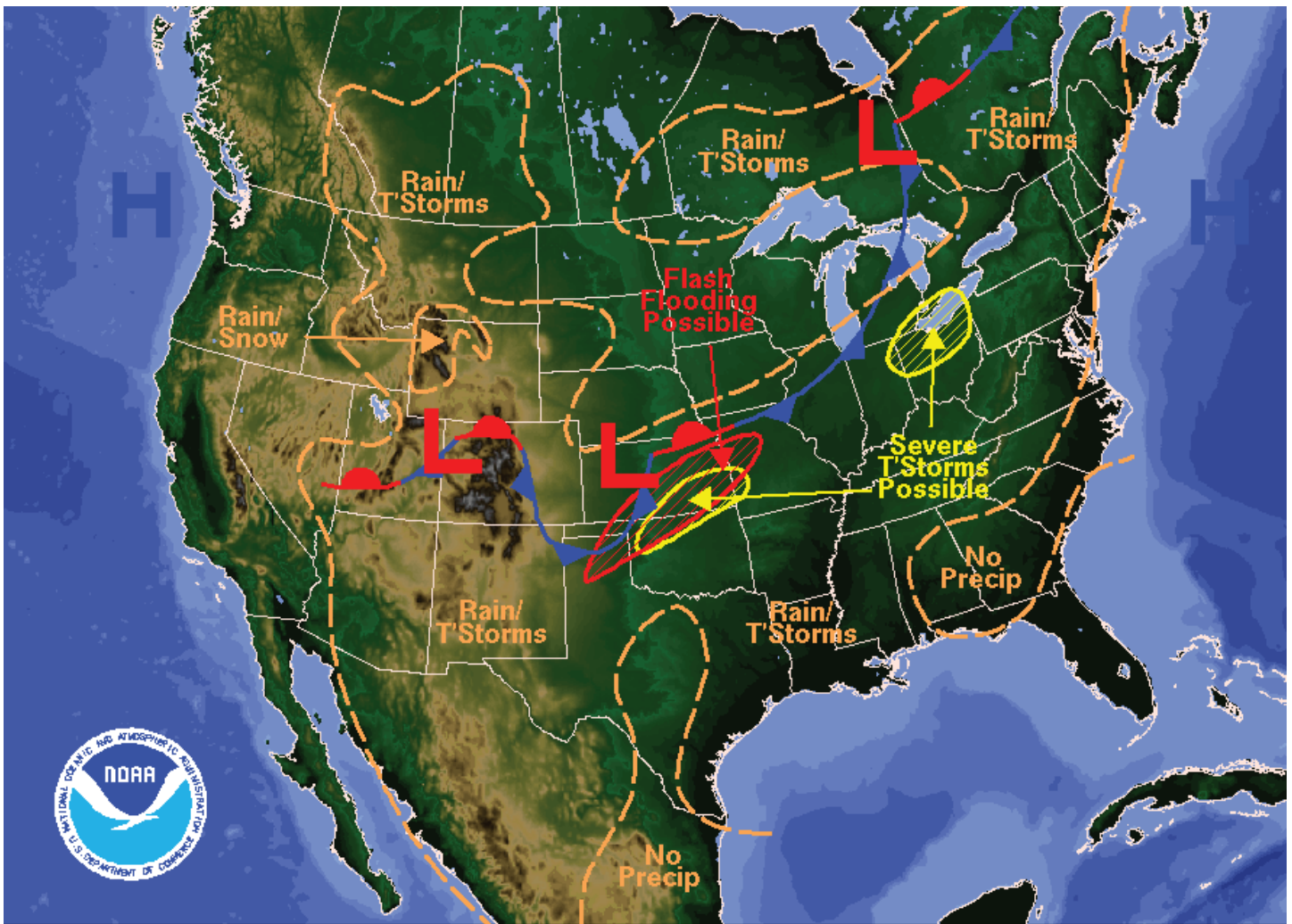
**Precip to date in Aug: 1.93**

**Average Precip to date: 15.82**

**Precip Year to Date: 12.66**

**Sunset Tonight: 8:22 p.m.**

**Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:48 a.m.**



Weather Forecast for Thu, Aug 25, 2016, issued 4:46 AM EDT  
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center  
Prepared by McReynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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## THE LIMITS OF TRUTH

It was a tense trial. The man who was facing serious charges needed someone to testify to his trustworthiness. One of his friends was called to the stand as a witness. He was asked, "Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth?"

He quietly responded, "Yes I do."

The judge turned to him and asked, "Do you understand the meaning of that oath?"

"Yes, your Honor, I do," he replied. And then added, "But under those conditions I don't have much to say."

What a careful, cautious response. He had much that he could say, but he was clear about what he would not say.

Whatever we put into our minds determines what comes out of our mouths and is seen in our behavior. Paul advised us to program our minds to "Think about things that are true, honorable, right, pure, lovely, admirable, and worthy of praise." What a challenge!

If we take Paul's advice seriously and pause to consider what we allow to enter our minds, we might be quite surprised. As people of "habits" we do things out of routine that have been established over the years.

Whatever we look at or read, think on or talk about will influence our minds and hearts and eventually our behavior. Take care!

**Prayer:** Heavenly Father, fill our minds with thoughts that come from Your Word that will draw us so close to You that we will speak words of praise. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

**Scripture for Today:** Philippians 4:8 Finally brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things.

golden  
living

We now accept



for out patient therapy.

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



## **Rapid City slaying suspect undergoing mental health exam**

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A Rapid City man accused of killing a 6-month-old girl is undergoing a mental health evaluation.

Twenty-six-year-old Kristopher Houchin is charged with second-degree murder in the June 2015 death of L’Naya White. Authorities allege Houchin was baby-sitting the girl when she died.

The results of Houchin’s evaluation are expected sometime next month. His trial is tentatively scheduled for mid-November. He remains jailed on \$50,000 bond.

## **Crash near Platte kills 10-year-old boy; 5 others injured**

PLATTE, S.D. (AP) — A 10-year-old boy is dead and five other people injured in a two-vehicle crash in Douglas County.

The Highway Patrol says the boy was a passenger in a pickup truck that collided with a sport utility vehicle at a state Highway 44 intersection about 12 miles east of Platte. The crash happened about 3:30 p.m. Wednesday.

The name of the boy who died wasn’t immediately released.

The 14-year-old driver of the pickup and an 11-year-old female passenger suffered minor injuries.

The three people in the SUV also suffered minor injuries. They included a 2-year-old girl and a 4-year-old boy.

## **Spots still open for outdoors workshop designed for women**

CUSTER, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Department says spots are still available for its annual outdoors workshop designed for women.

The weekend-long event scheduled to begin this year on Sept. 9 is meant to help women become more comfortable and aware of the outdoors and outdoor-related activities. The event will take place at the Outlaw Ranch near Custer.

The workshop is open for women 18 years old and older. It will feature classes in firearms shooting, hunting, fishing, wild game preparation, archery, photography, kayaking, paddle boarding and Dutch oven cooking.

Registration is limited to 100 participants. The fee is \$195.

## **Visitors to Mount Rushmore can park for free Thursday**

KEYSTONE, S.D. (AP) — People visiting Mount Rushmore National Memorial have the opportunity to park for free.

The Mount Rushmore Society says all vehicles visiting the memorial can park Thursday without cost. The free parking is in honor of the National Park Service’s centennial celebration.

The society through Presidential Parking Inc. has operated the parking facility at Mount Rushmore for the past two decades.

## Man who sparked Amber Alert being sent to Washington state

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A man who was arrested earlier this month in South Dakota after an Amber Alert was issued for his two children is being returned to Washington state to face felony charges in connection with the incident.

South Dakota Attorney General Marty Jackley on Wednesday announced the move in the case of 38-year-old Paul Brown, of Maple Valley, Washington.

South Dakota's Department of Public Safety issued an Amber Alert on Aug. 8 for Brown's 1- and 3-year-old children. Authorities at the time said Brown had taken the children from their Washington state home on Aug. 5, and they believed the 3-year-old's health was in jeopardy.

Brown was arrested in Kimball. Jackley says authorities received tips within minutes of the alert being issued identifying Brown's vehicle and license plate.

It's unclear if Brown has an attorney.

## Bold Bison: FCS kingpins not shying away from FBS challenge

DAVE KOLPACK, Associated Press

FARGO, N.D. (AP) — North Dakota State rolled to its fifth straight Football Championship Subdivision title last year and then watched its star quarterback walk to the stage as the No. 2 overall pick in the NFL draft. Yet there was still something missing for Bison fans.

They didn't get a chance to play a Football Bowl Subdivision team.

"The years we don't play an FBS school, there is some disappointment there," North Dakota State athletic director Matt Larsen said. "Our fans want to see how we stack up."

The Bison certainly have no need to raise their profile with an unprecedented title run and two appearances on ESPN's "College GameDay," which is normally reserved for FBS schools. Yet they are constantly putting out feelers to FBS teams and recently announced games at Oregon in 2020 and Colorado in 2024.

So why do it? Contrary to popular belief, Larsen said, it's not all about cashing in.

"There is both a philosophical and financial piece to it," Larsen said, noting that FBS games typically fetch a paycheck between \$300,000 and \$600,000. "For an FCS program, that is a nice chunk of change to help support the operating budget. Philosophically, it's something that resonates with our fans."

Bison fan Bob Clark, who has attended 418 straight North Dakota State football games, said he and fellow supporters enjoy the atmosphere of the FBS games compared to sitting in half-full stadiums at other schools.

"I wish we could play an FBS team every year," Clark said. "We used to travel to Morningside and sit in front of 400 people watching a game. Now we're in a 65,000-seat stadium at Kansas State and a 70,000-seat stadium at Iowa. It's a different feeling."

Last year's hiatus broke a five-year streak of FBS matchups for the Bison, who in that span defeated Kansas, Minnesota, Colorado State, Kansas State and Iowa State. Following the 2014 win over the Cyclones, college football pundits warned FBS schools to stop scheduling North Dakota State. The Big Ten, coincidentally, announced before the 2015 campaign that it would no longer play FCS teams.

Larsen said it has been challenging to find FBS schools to take the leap, which is one reason why Oregon and Colorado are scheduled so far out. In addition to fears of losing to the Bison, North Dakota State's physical style of offense and defense gives pause to FBS teams, Larsen said.

"We do get a lot of pushback," he said. "That is a great sign of respect for what the football program here has done."

The Big Ten's decision to nix FCS games has cost NDSU the opportunity to play closer to home, which boosted fan support for a team that already travels well and helped the Bison steal a few players on the recruiting trail. North Dakota State had its best classes from the state of Minnesota after it started playing the University of Minnesota.

This year the Bison play at Iowa, a game that former North Dakota State athletic director Gene Taylor lined up before moving on to become Iowa's deputy athletic director. Although this year's Hawkeye squad is probably the most formidable FBS opponent the Bison have ever played, Taylor said he is taking a lot of ribbing around the office.

He also agreed with Larsen that it's about more than money.

"I think if you ask the (North Dakota State) players, they want to come into Iowa and show they can compete, or at Oregon or those other places. They're a pretty confident bunch," Taylor said. "The coaches always get a little nervous, but they know it's part of the gig. If they can win the game, good for them, and if they can play well, it doesn't hurt them."

## **Judge to rule on tribe's oil pipeline request by Sept. 9**

**JAMES MacPHERSON, Associated Press**

**DAVID PITT, Associated Press**

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — A ruling in the request by the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe to stop a four-state oil pipeline under construction near their reservation will come by Sept. 9, a federal judge said Wednesday.

The tribe is challenging the Army Corps of Engineers' decision to grant permits for Dallas-based Energy Transfer Partners' \$3.8 billion Dakota Access pipeline, which crosses through four states, including near the reservation that straddles the North Dakota-South Dakota border. U.S. District Judge James Boasberg listened to arguments and said he'd rule next month.

Also Wednesday, Dakota Access was told by the Iowa Utilities Board to stay away from the properties of 15 Iowa landowners until Monday to give board time to review legal issues involving a lawsuit.

The \$3.8 billion pipeline, which will run 1,172 miles through Iowa, Illinois, North Dakota and South Dakota, has generated legal challenges and protests, most aggressively in North Dakota and Iowa. Growing protests and increased tension over the pipeline that will cross the Missouri River near the Standing Rock Sioux reservation has led to more than two dozen arrests, including tribal chairman Dave Archambault II.

He said he would continue to call for calm at the protest site. "I'm asking that we proceed with prayer and with peace," Archambault said. "Tribes from across the nation have united and I would hope Dakota Access does not continue with construction with the destruction of land before (the judge's ruling)."

The tribe's lawsuit, filed last month on behalf of the tribe by environmental group Earthjustice, said the project violates several federal laws, including the National Historic Preservation Act. The tribe also argues the project will harm water supplies and disturb ancient sacred sites outside of the 2.3-million acre reservation.

The pipeline's owners agreed last week to halt construction near the reservation until Wednesday's hearing, but it's unclear whether that construction is still on hold.

"The judge clearly understands the issues at stake," said Jan Hasselman, an Earthjustice attorney. "There are thousands of people out there who are going to be very upset if they try to move ahead while the judge considers this issue."

Corps spokeswoman Eileen Williamson said she couldn't comment on the lawsuit. She previously said that the agency's review of the pipeline found "no significant impacts to the environment or historic



properties.”

Wednesday’s hearing in Washington, D.C., attracted dozens of protesters, including actresses Susan Sarandon and Shailene Woodley, who spent nearly three weeks at the North Dakota protest. Sarandon said the pipeline creates a “dangerous situation” that threatens the tribe’s drinking water.

“Everyone needs water and I’m very grateful to the Standing Rock Tribe for making this clear that this has to stop,” Sarandon told The Associated Press. “Now it’s our turn to support them and make things right.”

Energy Transfer Partners officials didn’t return The Associated Press’ phone calls or emails Wednesday seeking comment.

Earlier Wednesday, the Iowa board told Dakota Access that it must to provide detailed information about the construction progress in the state, as well as more information about costs the company will incur if it’s required to work around the landowner’s parcels. Dakota Access previously estimated the cost to move construction crews and equipment around the 15 parcels at more than \$500,000 for each.

The Iowa Utilities Board will hear arguments Thursday on the landowners’ motion to halt construction on their properties until a court can rule on their lawsuit, which challenges the board’s authority to allow forced condemnation of farmland for a privately owned pipeline project under eminent domain laws.

Earlier this month in Iowa, construction equipment at several construction sites was set on fire, causing more than \$1 million in damage. Protest groups in the state denied responsibility, but said they plan to continue peaceful demonstrations against the project.

## **Oil pipeline: The legal challenges and protests**

**JAMES MacPHERSON, Associated Press**

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — A federal judge has heard testimony in the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe’s request to temporarily block the construction of a four-state oil pipeline near their reservation, which straddles the North Dakota-South Dakota border. U.S. District Judge James Boasberg said Wednesday he will make a decision on the issue by Sept. 9.

Some things to know about the pipeline and the tribe’s ongoing protest:

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### WHAT IS THE DAKOTA ACCESS PIPELINE?

Dallas-based Energy Transfer Partners’ Dakota Access Pipeline is a \$3.8 billion, 1,172-mile project that would carry nearly a half-million barrels of crude oil daily from North Dakota’s oil fields through South Dakota and Iowa to an existing pipeline in Patoka, Illinois, where shippers can access Midwest and Gulf Coast markets.

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### WHAT IS THE LAWSUIT TARGETING?

The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe sued federal regulators for approving the oil pipeline, challenging the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ decision to grant permits at more than 200 water crossings and arguing that the pipeline would be placed less than a mile upstream of the reservation, potentially impacting drinking water for more than 8,000 tribal members and millions of people who rely on it further downstream.

The lawsuit, filed on behalf of the tribe by environmental group Earthjustice, said the project violates several federal laws, including the National Historic Preservation Act. The tribe also worries the project will disturb ancient sacred sites outside of the 2.3-million acre reservation.

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### IS THE PIPELINE SAFE?

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The company said the pipeline would include safeguards such as leak detection equipment, and workers monitoring the pipeline remotely in Texas could close block valves on it within three minutes if a breach is detected.

## WHO ARE THE PROTESTERS?

Mostly members of the Standing Rock Sioux tribe, but they've been joined by other American Indians and non-Native Americans from across the country. "Divergent" actress Shailene Woodley was part of the protests last week, and actress Susan Sarandon was at Wednesday's federal hearing.

## HOW MANY ARRESTS HAVE THERE BEEN?

For months, there has been a nonviolent tribal protest at a "spirit camp" at the confluence of the Cannonball and Missouri rivers in the path of the pipeline. More than a dozen young people from the reservation also ran to Washington to deliver 140,000 petition signatures to the Corps to protest the pipeline.

But the protest recently became heated, and more than two dozen have been arrested and charged with interfering with the pipeline construction, including Standing Rock Sioux Tribal Chairman David Archambault II.

Gov. Jack Dalrymple declared an emergency last week to make more state resources available to manage public safety risks from the protest. He said that the state is committed to protecting lawful assembly rights, but says unlawful acts have led to "serious public safety concerns."

## ARE THERE PROTESTS IN OTHER STATES?

Yes, but nothing like in North Dakota. Construction equipment at several sites in Iowa was set on fire earlier in August, causing more than \$1 million in damage. And Iowa landowners who are upset over the state utilities board allowance of eminent domain have sued and are waiting for that challenge to be heard.

## WHY IS IT BEING BUILT?

Energy Transfer Partners announced the Dakota Access pipeline in 2014, a few days after Dalrymple urged industry and government officials to build more pipelines to keep pace with the state's oil production, which is second only to Texas'.

Supporters said the pipeline would create more markets and reduce truck and oil train traffic — the latter of which has been a growing concern after a spate of fiery derailments of trains carrying North Dakota crude, including one near Dalrymple's hometown of Casselton in 2013, and an explosion in Quebec that same year that killed 47 people.

## **Sioux Falls police union members reject proposed contract**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Members of the Sioux Falls police union have rejected the two-year labor contract that city officials have offered them.

The Fraternal Order of Police, representing about 220 Sioux Falls police officers, and the city announced the contract stalemate Wednesday.

City officials and the Fraternal Order of Police reached a tentative agreement in June that included a 1.5 percent pay increase for the next two years. But union members rejected the offer in a vote.

Union representatives and city officials met Monday to discuss the membership vote, but they were unable to reach a new agreement.

The officers' current contract expires Dec. 31. The city in a statement says it still plans to implement

its offer on Jan. 1.

The starting annual salary for Sioux Falls officers in 2016 is \$48,942.

## Rain in past week boosts soil moisture in South Dakota

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Rain over the past week has boosted soil moisture in South Dakota.

The Agriculture Department says in its weekly crop report that topsoil supplies statewide are rated 63 percent adequate to surplus, up from 57 percent the previous week. Subsoil moisture is rated 57 percent, up from 53 percent.

Pasture and range conditions in South Dakota are rated 38 percent good to excellent. Stock water supplies are 68 percent adequate to surplus. Both are on par with the previous week.

The report says the state's winter wheat harvest is virtually wrapped up, at 96 percent complete. The spring wheat harvest also is winding down, at 89 percent done.

## Opponents of Sioux Falls city building submit petitions

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Opponents of a \$25 million city office building in downtown Sioux Falls have submitted petitions with hundreds of pages of signatures.

They hope to pressure the city into scrapping plans for the building.

The City Council earlier this summer voted to pull funding for the 79,000-square-foot, three-story structure. Mayor Mike Huether vetoed the move, saying the project is needed. The council failed to override the veto.

The opposition group wants to force a special election to give the public the chance to vote on the project. However, the city can begin borrowing money for the building in October, before a special election could be scheduled.

City attorneys say state law would nullify an election if the city had already started borrowing. Huether's office says the city will proceed with financing.

## Multimillion-dollar cancer center planned for Pierre

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Avera Health plans to build a cancer center in Pierre, funded largely by a multi-million-dollar grant from a charitable trust established by the late hotel and real estate baroness Leona Helmsley.

The trust is donating \$7.5 million toward the building and will match up to \$2.5 million in other donations. The Avera St. Mary's Foundation plans to launch a fundraising campaign in 15 counties in central South Dakota.

The new Helmsley Center will be built between Avera St. Mary's Hospital and Avera Medical Group buildings. Construction is scheduled to start next summer, with the facility to open in late 2018.

"Pierre is unique in that it is our state capital and an important city in our state, and yet its geographical location isolates it from more populated areas by hundreds of miles," said Walter Panzirer of Pierre, grandson of the late Leona Helmsley and trustee of the Helmsley Charitable Trust. "We see bringing a cutting-edge cancer center to Pierre as a very worthy project that will help improve the future health of this community and the surrounding area."

The Rural Healthcare Program of the Helmsley Charitable Trust has funded more than \$296 million in grants throughout the upper Midwest.



## Rapid City adding up to 15 people to firefighting force

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Rapid City is adding up to 15 people to its firefighting force, thanks in large part to a \$1 million federal grant, but the city's fire chief says a long-term solution to staffing woes is still needed.

Chief Mike Maltaverne said earlier this summer that the department needed 15 more personnel to meet national standards and the emergency response needs of the city. He said Rapid City's fire call volume has tripled since 1995, from about 44 calls per firefighter to about 145 calls.

The city was notified late last week that it has been awarded \$1 million through a Federal Emergency Management Agency and Homeland Security program aimed at helping fire departments comply with national standards. It will fund nine positions.

"It breathes a little sigh of relief into our existing employees," Maltaverne said this week.

The Rapid City Council also has agreed to fund three new firefighter positions, and Mayor Steve Alender has included another three positions in his proposed budget for next year.

Maltaverne hopes to have all of the new positions filled by the beginning of next year. The federal grant will fund the nine firefighters for two years, during which time Maltaverne hopes the City Council can come up with a way to keep the positions in future years.

"What would be the point of hiring firefighters for two years and then having the city lay them off?" he said. "That doesn't solve the long-term problem."

## Boy, 5, uses allowance to buy lunch for police

WINSLOW TOWNSHIP, N.J. (AP) — A 5-year-old boy in New Jersey has picked up the lunch tab for his police department.

William Evertz Jr. saved up his allowance for seven months and went to a Subway restaurant on Wednesday to get sandwiches for officers in Winslow Township, a suburb of Philadelphia. His mother says he told her he wanted the officers to rest so they could protect the town.

Police made the boy an honorary officer and gave him a special shirt and badges. He also got a ride home in a police car with lights and siren.

## Alaska roadkill thieves target moose meant for charity

**DAN JOLING, Associated Press**

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) — Thieves coming across dead moose on Alaska roads are stealing the carcasses, making away with hundreds of pounds of meat that normally goes to a program run by state troopers that gives it to the needy and others willing to butcher the carcasses, officials said Wednesday.

Two moose killed recently by cars or trucks were set to be picked up by the trooper-sponsored program that alerts the Alaska Moose Federation so carcasses can be quickly delivered to recipients on a state troopers' list of people who want them.

But federation drivers could not find the two dead moose in July and August when they went to roadkill sites between Anchorage and Denali National Park, said the federation's director, Don Dyer.

Moose are the property of the state in Alaska when killed on the road and the thefts hurt Alaskans who like moose meat and depend on wild game to supplement their diets, he said.

"Sometimes there will be 10 people waiting for this moose to be delivered," Dyer said. "Then we have to call them up and say, 'Sorry, this moose has been stolen.'"

Roadkill moose provide plenty of food because adult bulls weigh up to 1,650 pounds, yielding more than 560 pounds of meat each.

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Alaska's cold weather allows residents to take advantage of roadkill meat as food because carcasses stay fresh long enough for federation drivers to retrieve them in time for them to be butchered rapidly.

"In Arizona, something like this might not work because of the spoilage factor," Dyer said. "Here, where the climate is cooler, we're able to salvage the meat quickly enough so that it's not spoiled."

Any Alaskan can sign up for the moose salvage program. Recipients are not allowed to sell the meat, said wildlife trooper Capt. Rex Leath.

Before the moose retrieval program started in 2012, Alaskans on the troopers' list were notified about moose roadkill locations and told they could go get the meat. Dyer said the retrieval program saves time for troopers and police.

"At 3 o'clock in the morning at 30 below in February, you might have a group of grandmothers out there cutting up a moose on the side of the road in a snow storm with kitchen knives, and the officer would have to sit there for an hour or two hours while they're cutting up this moose, protecting them from traffic," Dyer said.

The federation with funding from a federal grant receives \$200 for each moose picked up, using big pickups outfitted with winches and ramp systems to lift the carcasses from the roads.

Dyer suspects the moose thieves dragged the carcasses onto snowmobile trailers to tow them away. Last weekend, federation drivers arrived at another roadkill site and found that part of a moose's shoulder had been sliced off.

Two moose were also missing last winter when federation drivers went to pick them up.

Most moose die on Alaska roads from October through March when they meander onto roads to avoid struggling through deep snow.

The federation picked up about 500 moose over the last year and retrieves as many as 800 during years with heavy winter snows.

Besides depriving the needy of moose meat, the roadkill thieves waste the time of troopers and the federation, Dyer said.

"The impact these thefts have is not minimal," he said.

## **Woman arrested after pepper-spraying students at high school**

Police say a woman has been arrested after pepper-spraying a crowd of students at a high school in Atlanta

ATLANTA (AP) — Police say a woman has been arrested after pepper-spraying a crowd of students at a high school in Atlanta.

Atlanta Public Schools spokeswoman Kimberly Willis Green tells local news media that Shawanda Favors was apprehended after pepper-spraying a crowd of students Wednesday morning at Carver High School. Green says four students were treated for injuries and one student was taken to the hospital.

Favors is charged with disorderly conduct.

The school system's police department is investigating the incident.

## **Quake damages scores of Myanmar's heritage Bagan temples**

**MIN KYI THEIN, Associated Press**

**GRANT PECK, Associated Press**

BAGAN, Myanmar (AP) — It was a time of conquest and conversions. Above all, it was a time of construction, on a scale never seen before. Over 250 years, from the 11th century onwards, the rulers of Bagan built more than 10,000 magnificent religious monuments.

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The stupas, temples and monasteries became the defining emblems of Bagan, the capital of the Pagan (pronounced PUH'-gahn) empire that ruled Myanmar from roughly 1044 to 1287.

On Wednesday, scores of the monuments — of which only about 2,200 remain — were damaged in a powerful 6.8 magnitude earthquake. Yet much of what fell was modern material, sanctioned by Myanmar's former army rulers who had put top priority on restoring the temples with little regard for the original architectural styles.

King Anawratha, who unified the country formerly known as Burma, and his successors built the temples in a frenzy, believing they would gain spiritual merit. Still, piety didn't stop them from making war or killing to gain power.

One king, Narathu, slew his father, elder brother, and one of his wives. He also killed the architect of the magnificent Dhammayangi temple so he couldn't repeat the feat, and chopped off the hands of sloppy workmen.

As more and more monuments rose in the dusty plains of central Myanmar, Bagan became the political, economic and cultural center of the empire, promoting religious as well as secular studies, including philosophy, astrology, medicine, law and Pali, the language of Buddhist scriptures. The city became an educational destination for monks from as far away as India, Sri Lanka and Cambodia.

But Bagan declined as rapidly as it rose.

It was abandoned around 1287 for reasons not entirely clear, and the city — once home to up to 200,000 people — was reduced to the status of a small town. Some historical accounts cite Mongol invasions but others dispute that, saying the Mongol armies may not have reached the city.

But the dead city left a legacy that future generations are benefiting from.

Bagan covers more than 80 square kilometers (32 square miles) of a flat plain. It is the country's biggest tourist attraction, and along with Cambodia's Angkor Wat and Indonesia's Borobudur temple, the temples of Bagan are considered one of Southeast Asia's major historical landmarks.

Yet unlike those Southeast Asian archaeological cousins, Bagan is not listed as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO due to a tangled modern tale of neglect followed by a fervid if misguided effort at renovation in the 1990s, partly to restore damage from a 1975 earthquake.

As the ground shook on Wednesday, the tremors dislodged spires, loosened bricks and cracked the mortar, revealing modern material that was the result of haphazard restoration by the former military regime.

These efforts drew widespread international condemnation and forced UNESCO to deny Bagan the World Heritage Site stamp, even though it acknowledged that "these monuments represent the outstanding artistic and technical achievement of an original and innovative Buddhist school of art."

Much of the blame lies with the junta that took power in 1988, after crushing a pro-democracy movement. By 1995, restoration was in full swing to complete the work before the Visit Myanmar Year in 1996, which the generals of this once-pariah nation hoped would bring in much-needed tourist income.

The plan was a limited success, due to still underdeveloped infrastructure and a boycott call by human rights groups against the military regime, which had placed pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi under house arrest. The country emerged from military rule this year after Suu Kyi's party won to become the country's de facto leader.

Pierre Pichard, a UNESCO consultant who had long been associated with Bagan, said impressing visiting generals rather than cultural priorities dictated restoration while military-ordered excavation has been done "hastily, without proper preparation and without the requested scientific methodology and records."

UNESCO was even more disturbed when a 60-meter (198-foot) -high viewing tower opened in 2005,



saying it's out of scale and detracts visually from the historical monuments.

State tourism authorities responded that the tower would prevent tourists from climbing on fragile pagodas and stupas and damaging them.

## **For 10 years, possibly biggest pearl was hidden under bed**

**TERESA CEROJANO, Associated Press**

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — A Filipino fisherman in western Palawan island has found possibly the world's biggest pearl, but he didn't know it.

For 10 years, the 34-kilogram (75-pound) pearl was hidden in a bag under a bed. The fisherman's family would rub it with their hands before going out to sea in the belief it would bring them luck, said relative Aileen Amurao.

Amurao, who is also Puerto Princesa city's tourism officer, said Thursday that the man gave her the pearl last month for safekeeping because he was moving to a new place.

The pearl was sitting on a bench in her home for weeks until she found time to check the internet, and she was shocked to learn that it could be the world's biggest at 2.2 feet (67 centimeters) long and 1 foot (30 centimeters) wide.

The fisherman, his father and brothers found the irregular-shaped pearl inside a giant clam that stuck to their boat's anchor when they sought refuge from a squall on a reef, Amurao said.

The fisherman did not want to be identified, she said.

She said that she, the fisherman and his family decided to turn over the pearl to the city mayor, who had it displayed in a glass case in Puerto Princesa's city hall to attract tourists. The fisherman will receive a still-unspecified reward from the local government, Amurao said, adding that he never intended to sell it.

Experts from the University of the Philippines have expressed interest in inspecting the pearl, but she said no date has been set for their visit.

It would not be the first time giant pearls have been found off Palawan.

A 9-kilogram (20-pound) pearl, called Pearl of the King, was found in Palawan in 1939, and is on display in a hotel at the central island resort of Boracay. Local media have reported that fishermen had recovered other huge pearls in the province, including one reportedly weighing 24.75 kilograms (54 pounds).

The Guinness World Records lists a 718.50 carat baroque abalone pearl as the biggest of its kind, measuring 5.5 inches (14 centimeters) in length, 3.1 inches (8 centimeters) wide and 1.6 inches (4 centimeters) thick.

## **Turkey: US says Syria Kurds are pulling back in north Syria**

**SUZAN FRASER, Associated Press**

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry has told his Turkish counterpart that Syrian Kurdish forces have started withdrawing east of the Euphrates River, Turkish officials said Thursday.

The pullback was a major demand by Ankara after Turkey sent in tanks and special forces backed by U.S. airstrikes across the border to help Syrian rebels take a key Islamic State stronghold the previous day.

Turkey's incursion into northern Syria was also meant to contain an expansion by Syria's Kurds amid the neighboring country's civil war, now in its sixth year.

According to Turkish ministry officials, Kerry and Mevlut Cavusoglu spoke by telephone on Thursday

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to discuss the Turkish military operation to retake the IS-held border town of Jarablus in northern Syria.

Kerry stressed that the Syrian Kurdish forces "were in the process of retreating east of the Euphrates," the officials said in reference to the Syrian Kurdish forces. They spoke on condition of anonymity in line with government regulations

Battling IS militants in Syria, the U.S.-backed Syrian Kurds have been able to seize nearly the entire stretch of the border with Turkey in northern Syria. Turkey has been deeply concerned by the advances of the Kurdish forces, fearing they aim to set up a Kurdish entity there. Ankara maintains that the Syrian Kurdish militia is linked to Kurdish rebels waging an insurgency in southeastern Turkey.

Vice President Joe Biden, who flew into Ankara hours after the offensive on Wednesday, warned that the Syrian Kurdish forces will lose U.S. support unless they retreat east of the Euphrates.

On Thursday, at least 10- more Turkish tanks were seen crossing into Syria at the Turkish border town of Karkamis, the private Dogan news agency reported.

The Turkish assault, launched in retaliation after a string of militant bombings in Turkey, adds yet another powerhouse force on the ground in an already complicated war.

A senior Turkish official told reporters that operations would continue until "we are convinced" that imminent threats to Turkey are neutralized. He said the aim is to create a "terror-free zone" in northern Syria to prevent militants from entering Turkey. The official also spoke on condition of anonymity in line with government regulations.

## Welcome to the Trump-Clinton conspiracy election

**KEN THOMAS, Associated Press**

**LISA LERER, Associated Press**

LOS ANGELES (AP) — It's a conspiracy: The 2016 campaign features one candidate who warned against the "vast right-wing conspiracy" and another who was a leader of the so-called "birther" movement.

Donald Trump and his surrogates hint at a mysterious "illness" afflicting rival Hillary Clinton. Pushing back, Clinton warns of murky ties between Trump and the Russian government, insinuating that her Republican opponent may be a puppet of Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Rumors and innuendo long confined to the far reaches of the Internet are dominating the presidential race, forcing Clinton to grapple — once again — with the kinds of whispers that have dogged her family for decades.

Clinton has largely avoided discussing the conspiracies, leaving it to members of her campaign team or allies. But she is preparing a Reno, Nevada, address on Thursday that will accuse Trump of supporting an "alt-right" campaign that presents "a divisive and dystopian view of America."

"I do feel sometimes like this campaign has entered into an alternative universe," Clinton said in an appearance Monday night on ABC's "Jimmy Kimmel Live."

She described Trump Wednesday night on CNN as a candidate who is campaigning on anger and hatred.

"Donald Trump has shown us who he is and we ought to believe him," she said. "He is taking a hate movement mainstream. He has brought it into his campaign. He's bringing it to our communities and our country."

Driven by big personalities, the 2016 election has become a perfect storm for conspiracy theories. Clinton famously called her husband's opponents part of a "vast right-wing conspiracy" and her family has long been central to a cottage industry of sordid tales about her husband and family.

Trump is known for peddling conspiracies and was at the center of the "birther" movement that ques-

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tioned whether President Barack Obama was born in the United States (Obama was born in Hawaii). Trump, a businessman and reality TV star, has frequently tossed out rumors about Clinton's health and sleep schedule on the stump and on Twitter, aiming to discredit her fitness for office.

Sensing an opportunity, Clinton's team seized upon the rumor-mongering after the GOP nominee plucked Steve Bannon, the executive chairman of the conservative website Breitbart News, to be his new campaign chairman this month.

They highlight that Trump has been informally advised by Roger Ailes, the former chairman and CEO of Fox News, which has aired segments questioning Clinton's health, and GOP consultant Roger Stone, who has pushed politically loaded innuendo about the Clintons for years.

Clinton, who turns 69 in late October, is younger than the 70-year-old Trump. But her health has remained front-and-center.

Much of the speculation stems from a concussion Clinton sustained in December 2012 after fainting in her final weeks as secretary of state, an episode her doctor has attributed to a stomach virus and dehydration.

During the course of her treatment, she was found to have a blood clot in a vein in the space between the brain and the skull behind the right ear. To recover, Clinton spent a few days at a hospital and took a month-long absence from the State Department for treatment.

Republican strategist Karl Rove later cast the incident as a "serious health episode" that would be an issue if Clinton ran for president, fueling a theory the concussion posed a graver threat to her abilities than Clinton and her team let on.

Former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani, a top Trump surrogate, urged voters to "go online and put down 'Hillary Clinton illness,'" in a Sunday interview with Fox News. And Trump has repeatedly questioned her stamina at campaign rallies.

"She gives a short speech then she goes home, goes to sleep, she shows up two days later. Remember, short circuit. Remember that, right? Short circuit," he said at a Florida rally earlier this month.

When the accusations made their way into a recent Trump foreign policy address, in which he said she "lacks the mental and physical stamina" to fight Islamic State militants, Clinton's campaign felt they had to respond.

Her team put out a statement from Dr. Lisa Bardack, an internist who proclaimed Clinton in "excellent physical condition and fit to serve as president of the United States." Bardack had said in 2013 that testing showed "complete resolution" of the concussion's effects, including double vision, which had led Clinton to wear glasses with special lenses, further fueling rumors.

Fanned by right-wing media sites, like Breitbart, the rumors occasionally break through onto cable news and other mainstream media.

In the aftermath of hacked Democratic emails, Trump encouraged hackers from Russia to find Clinton's missing State Department emails, an apparent invitation for a foreign power to intervene in a U.S. election.

Clinton's team frequently points to Trump's ties to Russia. Her campaign has a page on its website devoted to a Q-and-A about Trump's "bizarre relationship" with Russia, fueling an unproven theory that Trump is a shill for Putin.



## US pursues Syria cooperation with Russia amid new volatility

MATTHEW LEE, AP Diplomatic Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Obama administration is launching a fresh bid to enlist Russia as a partner in Syria despite more than a month of dashed hopes as the situation on the ground becomes more volatile and uncertain with the introduction of Turkish ground forces.

As the military picture grows more chaotic and complicated by the day, Secretary of State John Kerry will meet Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov later this week to try to hammer out a diplomatic initiative that would see greater cooperation that could lead to a resumption in talks on a political transition.

Before talks can begin, though, U.S. officials say it is imperative that Russia use its influence with Syrian President Bashar Assad to halt attacks on moderate opposition forces, open humanitarian aid corridors, and concentrate any offensive action on the Islamic State group and other extremists not covered by what has become a largely ignored truce.

Those goals are not new, but recent developments have made achieving them even more urgent and important, according to U.S. officials. Recent developments include military operations around the city of Aleppo, the entry of Turkey into the ground war, Turkish hostility toward U.S.-backed Kurdish rebel groups and the presence of American military advisers in widening conflict zones.

Expectations are low, however, particularly given how efforts to forge a new U.S.-Russia understanding have fallen short virtually every month for the past five years. At the same time, the administration is not of one mind regarding the Russians. The Pentagon has publicly complained about getting drawn into greater cooperation with Russia even though it has been forced recently to expand communication with Moscow. Just last week the U.S. had to call for Russian help when Syrian warplanes struck in an area not far from where U.S. troops were operating on the ground.

As the administration continues to pursue a strategy of partnering with a hodgepodge of local fighters against the Islamic State group without getting pulled deeper into Syria's civil war or rupturing relations with Turkey, Kerry will meet Lavrov in Geneva on Friday. He will press Russia for help on re-establishing the fractured nationwide truce with a focus on Aleppo and bringing food, medicine and other supplies into besieged communities.

"We want to be very measured in our expectations as we go forward into this meeting, but we believe the meeting is worth having," State Department spokeswoman Elizabeth Trudeau said Wednesday.

Yet, the only tangible indication that the meeting is worth having seems to be that it has been scheduled. "The fact that we've scheduled a meeting is a good sign," Trudeau said. "We'll see what happens."

Kerry and Lavrov will be meeting just days after Turkish forces allied with Syrian Arab rebels and backed by U.S. air power pushed into Syria to retake Jarablus, a border town held by Islamic State militants, which has the potential to further muddle an already confusing picture on the ground.

This move is significant as it marks NATO member Turkey's most overt incursion into Syria. But it also puts Turkey on a path toward potential confrontation with Kurdish fighters in Syria who the United States is supporting in their fight against the Islamic State group and have been the most effective force battling IS militants in northern Syria.

The Turks are adamant that the Kurds not advance as they have a long-running fight with Kurdish insurgents on their side of the border.

And Russia is not on board. The Foreign Ministry in Moscow issued a statement expressing deep concern about Turkey's ground incursion, saying it raises the risk of civilian casualties and the worsening of ethnic tensions between Kurds and Arabs.

## **Bold moves, tepid gains: Have central banks met their limit?**

**PAUL WISEMAN, AP Economics Writer**

WASHINGTON (AP) — The world's key central banks have worked themselves into contortions to try to rev up economic growth, raise inflation and coax consumers and businesses to borrow and spend more.

They've pumped trillions into financial systems and driven interest rates about as low as they can go — even below zero in Europe and Japan. Yet after several years, the results are ... meh.

As central bankers meet this week at an annual conference in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, the global landscape remains bleak. Growth is sluggish. Inflation barely registers. Businesses won't invest. And consumers remain mostly hunkered down eight years after a financial crisis that jolted central banks to take radical steps in the first place.

Far from stepping up spending, many people and businesses have instead been saving money despite essentially zero interest. Economists warn that the easy-money policies are losing effectiveness over time — and might even make things worse.

"It's pushing on a string if you're trying to get people who are already living in a borderline recession economy, who are already up to their eyeballs in debt, to borrow more," says Mark Blyth, a professor of international political economy at Brown University.

The central banks' extraordinary efforts weren't meant to be permanent. They were designed to restore confidence in a banking system that was teetering in 2008 and then to counter the deepest recession since the 1930s.

By all accounts, they managed to ease panic and rescue the world's advanced economies. But the United States, and especially Europe and Japan, haven't been able to ignite borrowing and spending and restore their economies to full health.

The International Monetary Fund foresees sluggish growth in each economy this year: 2.2 percent in America, 0.3 percent in Japan and a collective 1.6 percent in the 19 countries that use the euro currency.

Consider inflation: The Federal Reserve, the European Central Bank and the Bank of Japan are all aiming at the same target: 2 percent inflation. They keep missing. Prices are barely rising in Europe and America. They're falling in Japan. Rising prices are important because they get people to spend to avoid having to pay higher prices later and thereby fuel economic growth.

But consumers and businesses aren't acting as if they expect prices to rise. They're acting as if hard times, low prices and cheap loans are here to stay.

In the United States, business investment has fallen for three straight quarters. That's one reason economic growth has remained subpar since late 2015. American consumers are saving more and charging less on credit cards than they did before the 2007-2009 Great Recession.

Assessing the Fed's efforts, Charles Sweat, president of First Peoples Bank of Pine Mountain, Georgia, says: "I don't know it's done as much to stimulate additional borrowing as it was designed to do."

Sweat notes that many Georgia households are still recovering from the financial crisis, paying debts and rebuilding savings. He also says regulations enacted after the crisis have made it harder to borrow: Processing a mortgage now takes up to 60 days, twice what it used to.

Still, the Fed may feel confident enough in the economy to resume raising rates when it meets next month. Whatever its other problems, the U.S. economy is generating enough jobs — nearly 2.5 million over the past year — to lower the unemployment rate to a healthy 4.9 percent.

Things look uglier in Europe, where unemployment is stuck at 10.1 percent. European savers are shrugging off super-low — and even negative — interest rates and still socking money away in the

bank.

Japan's central bank imposed a fee on commercial bank deposits in January — a negative interest rate. That bold step was meant to prod banks to lend instead of paying to park their money at the Bank of Japan. No luck. Since January, bank lending in Japan has been growing more slowly than it typically did before the negative rates.

The troubles that ail the world's biggest economies may be beyond the reach of central banking. They include aging workforces, sluggish worker productivity and a sharp deceleration in China's mammoth economy, which has shaken financial markets and slowed worldwide growth.

"The Fed can only take things so far," says Frank Sorrentino, CEO of ConnectOne Bank in Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey. "You look around the globe and you see economies that are not doing well, and it's putting pressure on the United States."

He and others say governments must do more by investing in roads, bridges and other infrastructure — moves that could make their economies more efficient and put more people to work. But political gridlock in the United States and debt worries in Europe have paralyzed governments.

"The entire West has forgotten what fiscal policy is," Brown's Blyth says.

A new analysis by Standard & Poor's suggests that rising income inequality may also be diminishing the Fed's influence.

Lower rates have benefited America's top earners, who have managed to capitalize on low rates to buy houses or refinance mortgages and enjoy a stock market rally fueled by cheap money.

Conversely, even at low rates, poorer Americans struggle to qualify for mortgages and other loans. And they're far less likely to own stocks. The result is that it's hard for the Fed alone to foster a robust recovery.

Some economists warn that easy money is actually causing damage. Unable to earn much on safe investments, some investors are accepting more risk to seek higher returns. Their money can inflate dangerous bubbles in real estate and stock prices.

Many economists say that to restore the economy's full health, the government needs to spend more or tax less.

"The message is clear," Scott Miner, global chief investment officer at Guggenheim Partners, said in a research note. "The current monetary policy regime cannot succeed alone."

## **Italy toll rises to 247 as anguish mounts over quake past**

**FRANCES D'EMILIO, Associated Press**

**NICOLE WINFIELD, Associated Press**

AMATRICE, Italy (AP) — Rescue crews raced against time Thursday looking for survivors from the earthquake that leveled three towns in central Italy, but the death toll rose to 247 and Italy once again anguished over trying to secure its medieval communities built on seismic lands.

Dawn broke over the rolling hills of central Lazio and Le Marche regions after a night of uninterrupted search efforts. Aided by sniffer dogs and audio equipment, firefighters and rescue crews using their bare hands pulled chunks of cement, rock and metal apart from mounds of rubble where homes once stood searching for signs of life.

One area of focus was the Hotel Roma in Amatrice, famous for the Amatriciana bacon and tomato pasta sauce that brings food lovers to this medieval hilltop town each August for its food festival.

Amatrice's mayor had initially said 70 guests were in the crumbled hotel ahead of this weekend's festival, but rescue workers later halved that estimate after the owner said most guests managed to escape.



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Firefighters' spokesman Luca Cari said that one body had been pulled out of the hotel rubble just before dawn but that the search continued there and elsewhere, even as 460 aftershocks rattled the area after the magnitude 6 temblor struck at 3:36 a.m. on Wednesday.

"We're still in a phase that allows us to hope we'll find people alive," Cari said, noting that in the 2009 earthquake in nearby L'Aquila a survivor was pulled out after 72 hours.

Worst affected by the quake were the tiny towns of Amatrice and Accumoli near Rieti, 100 kilometers (60 miles) northeast of Rome, and Pescara del Tronto, 25 kilometers (15 miles) further east.

Italy's civil protection agency reported the death toll had risen to 247 early Thursday with at least 264 others hospitalized. Most of the dead — 190 — were in Amatrice and Accumoli and their nearby hamlets.

"From here everyone survived," said Sister Mariana, one of three nuns and an elderly woman who survived the quake that pancaked half of her Amatrice convent.

"They saved each other, they took their hands even while it was falling apart, and they ran, and they survived."

She said that others from another part of the convent apparently didn't make it: Three other nuns and four elderly women.

The civil protection agency set up tent cities around the affected towns to accommodate the homeless, 1,200 of whom took advantage of the offer to spend the night, civil protection officials said Thursday. In Amatrice, some 50 elderly and children spent the night inside a local sports facility.

"It's not easy for them," said civil protection volunteer Tiziano De Carolis, helping to care for about 350 homeless in Amatrice.

"They have lost everything, the work of an entire life, like those who have a business, a shop, a pharmacy, a grocery store and from one day to another they discovered everything they had was destroyed."

As the search effort continued, the soul-searching began once again as Italy confronted the effects of having the highest seismic hazard in Western Europe, some of its most picturesque medieval villages, and anti-seismic building codes that aren't applied to old buildings and often aren't respected when new ones are built.

"In a country where in the past 40 years there have been at least eight devastating earthquakes ... the only lesson we have learned is to save lives after the fact," columnist Sergio Rizzo wrote in Thursday's *Corriere della Sera*. "We are far behind in the other lessons."

Experts estimate that 70 percent of Italy's buildings aren't built to anti-seismic standards. After every major quake, proposals are made to improve, but they often languish in Italy's thick bureaucracy, funding shortages and the huge scope of trying to secure thousands of ancient towns and newer structures built before codes were passed or after the codes were in effect but in violation of them.

In recent quakes, some of these more modern buildings have been the deadliest: the university dormitory that collapsed in the 2009 L'Aquila quake, killing 11 students; the elementary school that crumbled in San Giuliano di Puglia in 2002, killing 26 children — the town's entire first-grade class. In some cases, the anti-seismic building standards have been part of the problem, including using reinforced cement for roofs that are then too heavy for weak walls when quakes strike.

Premier Matteo Renzi, visiting the quake-affected zone Wednesday, promised to rebuild "and guarantee a reconstruction that will allow residents to live in these communities, to relaunch these beautiful towns that have a wonderful past that will never end."

While the government is already looking ahead to reconstruction, rescue workers on the ground still had days and weeks of work ahead of them. In hard-hit Pescara del Tronto, firefighter Franco Mantovan

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said early Thursday that crews knew of three residents still under the rubble, but in a hard-to-reach area.

In the evening there, about 17 hours after the quake struck, firefighters pulled a 10-year-old girl alive from a crumbled home.

"You can hear something under here. Quiet, quiet," one rescue worker said, before soon urging her on: "Come on, Giulia, come on, Giulia."

Cheers broke out when she was pulled out.

But there were wails when bodies emerged.

"Unfortunately, 90 percent we pull out are dead, but some make it, that's why we are here," said Christian Bianchetti, a volunteer from Rieti who was working in devastated Amatrice.

## WHY IT MATTERS: Trade

**PAUL WISEMAN, AP Economics Writer**

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: In this angry election year, many American voters are deeply skeptical about free trade — or downright hostile to it.

The backlash against trade threatens a pillar of U.S. policy since World War II: Through trade pacts and institutions like the World Trade Organization, the United States has sought to rip down barriers to global commerce, including quotas and taxes on imports.

Economists argue that the benefits of free trade outweigh the costs. Imports cut prices for consumers, and exposure to foreign competition makes American firms and the overall U.S. economy more efficient. There's a geopolitical angle, too: Countries that do business with each other are less likely to go to war.

Free trade, it seemed, paid off.

But doubts lingered, especially as China emerged as an economic power. China overwhelmed the world with hundreds of millions of low-paid factory workers who could crank out products for less than just about anybody else. And critics charge that China doesn't play by the rules — unfairly subsidizing exporters, manipulating its currency to give them a competitive edge and condoning the theft of U.S. trade secrets. Whatever the reasons, the United States last year ran a \$334 billion trade deficit with China — a big chunk of America's \$500 billion total trade deficit.

Even economists are having second thoughts. David Autor of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Gordon Hanson of the University of California, San Diego, and David Dorn of the University of Zurich looked at the American workers most exposed to competition from China. They got an unpleasant surprise. Instead of finding jobs in newer, growing industries, as economic theory dictated, Americans thrown out of work by the "China shock" bounced from job to job and suffered a drop in lifetime pay. China's rise has "challenged much of the received empirical wisdom about how labor markets adjust to trade shocks," they concluded.

### WHERE THEY STAND

Presidential candidates Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton oppose the trade agreements that are a hallmark of U.S. economic policy. Clinton has broken with President Barack Obama by opposing the Trans-Pacific Partnership, an agreement that Obama's administration hammered out with 11 Pacific Rim countries (excluding China) and that awaits congressional approval. Awkwardly for Clinton, she had

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called the agreement the “gold standard” for trade deals when she was Obama’s secretary of state.

Trump vows to tear up existing trade deals, such as the North American Free Trade Agreement with Mexico and Canada, and to slap huge tariffs on Chinese imports. He traces America’s economic problems to bad trade deals reached by clueless U.S. negotiators outfoxed by craftier foreigners. The author of “The Art of the Deal” says he can do better.

## WHY IT MATTERS

Foreign competition is one reason America has lost 3.4 million factory jobs since China joined the World Trade Organization and became a bigger part of global trade in 2001. It’s also partly responsible for stagnant American wages. Adjusting for inflation, U.S. households earn less than they did in 1997.

But trade isn’t the only culprit: Technology allows factories to cut jobs and still increase production.

Despite the campaign rhetoric, trade deals have far less impact on jobs than forces such as automation and wage differences between countries. The controversial Pacific deal, for instance, probably would have a negligible impact on American employment, the International Trade Commission concluded.

Trump’s plans to impose punitive tariffs would risk setting off a trade war and driving up prices for American consumers. Pulling back from trade agreements could also reduce America’s diplomatic influence. The Pacific agreement, for instance, is aimed partly at countering China’s clout in Asia.

## WNBA president wants teams to have community conversations

**DOUG FEINBERG, AP Basketball Writer**

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Lisa Borders and WNBA players are ready to move forward.

With the league resuming play this weekend after a month-long Olympic break, Borders outlined to The Associated Press a plan to have teams and players hold conversations in the community similar to what Carmelo Anthony and the U.S. Olympic basketball teams did in Los Angeles last month. The WNBA president said that was a solid blueprint for what can be done in each WNBA city.

“We’ve created a guide book which will enable each of our teams to take that same concept and bring it to life in their market,” Borders said in an interview with The Associated Press. “Our players are ready to start that phase and lead it with their colleagues from the NBA and if there are folks from other sports franchises that want to participate we’ll welcome that as well.”

Borders didn’t give a timetable of when the plan would be implemented. The league had fined three teams and their players last month for wearing shirts to show solidarity after shootings in Minnesota and Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The fines were later rescinded a few days later, right before the Olympic break.

“I think it would be great. Anything would be great,” said Liberty center Tina Charles. “It’s embarrassing that it got to the point that it got to. The fact that president Lisa Borders is willing to take the next step forward, it’s not about keeping the players happy. It’s because you need to show your support in what your players need. We’re happy and thrilled that something will get done.”

Charles had been one of the most outspoken WNBA players in support of the movement. She wore her warmup shirt inside-out in the Liberty’s last game before the Olympic break even after the teams had been fined.

“She’s a young woman that has a strong voice, a compelling voice and she’s found that voice and is using it in a very constructive way and I am proud of her and I told her that,” Borders said. “If you call that clearing the air, this is the commissioner saying you go girl. I’m very happy with her and for her.”

Tamika Catchings, who is president of the players association, attended and spoke at the Los Angeles meeting. She said that she and Pacers star Paul George came away from that event planning on doing



their own community conversation in Indianapolis. She welcomed Borders' idea as a positive move.

"It's a great step forward. Great that we can come together and do it united and have a united front that we always talk about," Catchings said.

Despite the contentiousness before the break, Borders was proud of the players for taking a stance.

"Any movement in modern history has started with young people," she said. "This was no exception. I'm a child of the civil rights movement. ... There are issues in the world today in our country that we need to deal with. Our players felt the need to speak up and I think that's a good thing."

## **AP-NORC Poll: Gender matters, but does it hurt or help?**

**CATHERINE LUCEY, Associated Press**

**EMILY SWANSON, Associated Press**

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — There's no "glass ceiling" keeping a woman from the presidential nomination anymore, but most Americans still think Hillary Clinton's gender will influence the November election. They're just divided on whether it's more of a curse than a blessing.

According to a new poll from the Associated-Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research, most Americans see Clinton's gender playing a role in the campaign, with 37 percent saying her gender will help her chances of being elected president, 29 percent arguing it will hurt her, and 33 percent thinking it won't make a difference.

"I think it will help her in a way because we haven't had a woman before," said Nayef Jaber, 67, of San Rafael, California. "Israel had Golda Meir and Britain had the Iron Lady (Margaret Thatcher) ... Women can do the job as well as men and even better. Let's give her a chance."

Clinton, who officially clinched the Democratic nomination in July after a lengthy primary battle, has embraced the history-making nature of this campaign, compared to her 2008 presidential bid, which played down her gender. As she competes with Republican Donald Trump, Clinton has focused heavily on policies that appeal to female voters, like equal pay and paid maternity leave, and has stressed that she wants young women and girls to follow in her footsteps.

In contrast, critics say many of Trump's attacks on Clinton look like gender bias. Trump has called Clinton weak and has recently started questioning her stamina. He has also complained about Clinton's voice, questioned her appearance and said she is playing the "women's card" to win.

Women have made strides in elected office in the United States, but still have not clinched the top job. The latest poll numbers show that many Americans still think women have fewer opportunities in politics compared to men.

Most Americans think women are tough enough to handle the challenges facing a president, but the poll shows that some remain unconvinced. Overall, 75 percent of Americans say they think men and women make equally good political leaders, while 17 percent think men make better leaders and 7 percent say women do. Still, about a quarter of Americans, including nearly half of Republicans and more than half of Americans who have a favorable view of Donald Trump, think a female president would not be tough enough to handle a military crisis or a terrorist attack. Men and women are about equally likely to say a woman is tough enough to handle those scenarios facing a president.

More than half of Americans say they consider Clinton a positive role model for other women, though more than two-thirds say the fact that Clinton would be the first woman president doesn't affect their vote.

"I don't think it's super important. I think it would be nice, a change of scenery, but I don't think it's 100 percent necessary," said Celeste Wiley, 19, of Wesley Chapel, Florida, who said she will probably

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vote for Clinton. "It all depends on the person."

After decades in the spotlight, serving as first lady, senator and secretary of state, public sentiment on Clinton is mixed and she has high negative ratings. Still, Americans are more likely to think Clinton is being held to a higher standard than other candidates than a lower one, 40 percent to 23 percent. More than two thirds of those who think she's being held to a higher standard say that's because she's a woman, while significantly fewer of those who think she's being held to a lower one think her gender is the explanation. In total, more than a third of Americans think Clinton is being held to a different standard, either higher or lower, specifically because of her gender.

"I do think it hurts her. I think she's being held to a much higher standard than a male politician would be," said Emily Knapp, 26, of Ithaca, New York, who is considering voting for Clinton. She noted "how often people talk about her appearance and the boxy pantsuits she prefers."

But Gwendolyn Posey, 44, of Prague, Oklahoma, who plans to write in Sen. Ted Cruz's name on her ballot said Clinton was held to a lower standard.

"Because everyone is captivated by the first woman president possibility. she isn't being held to the same rigorous standards that men are held to," Posey said. Still she added: "to be fair, Trump is being held to no standards at all."

Leaving aside the question of whether Clinton is the right woman for the job, just 47 percent of Americans think it would be a good thing for the country to elect a female president, while 11 percent think it would be a bad thing, and 41 percent say it doesn't matter either way. Among those saying that it would be a good thing, about half say it's extremely or very important to them that it happens during their lifetime, while another third call it somewhat important.

Despite gains made by women in elected office, just over half of Americans say gender discrimination remains a problem for women in politics, while about 3 in 10 feel the opportunities are about the same. About 2 in 10 think women have more opportunities.

Even people like Linda Gaarn, 70, of Asheboro, North Carolina, who plans to vote for Trump, agreed that the playing field was uneven.

"Men have always been the politicians and in politics and the woman have stood back," Gaarn said.

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The AP-NORC poll of 1,096 adults was conducted Aug. 11-14 using a sample drawn from NORC's probability-based AmeriSpeak panel, which is designed to be representative of the U.S. population. The margin of sampling error for all respondents is plus or minus 3.6 percentage points.

Respondents were first selected randomly using address-based sampling methods, and later interviewed online or by phone.

## **In Israel's religious press, Hillary Clinton is invisible**

**DANIELLA CHESLOW, Associated Press**

BNEI BRAK, Israel (AP) — Hillary Clinton may become the president of Israel's most important ally, but her image is banished from a significant swath of the country's media: the ultra-Orthodox press whose deeply conservative readership chafes at images of women.

Clinton's nomination as Democratic candidate for the U.S. presidency is casting light on a longstanding policy that has already applied to other female figures from Germany's Angela Merkel to Israel's own prime minister Golda Meir. But whereas the election is causing some discussion among U.S. ultra-Orthodox media, their Israeli equivalents are digging in their heels.

"For us there is no question. We will not publish pictures of women, period," said Meni Shwartz, editor

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of the ultra-Orthodox news site Behadrei Haredim.

About 11 percent of Israel's 8.5 million citizens are Haredi, or ultra-Orthodox. Recognizable by their black hats and long black clothes, they often lead insular lives, separated from the more secular Jewish majority and closely adhering to Jewish laws. Ultra-Orthodox women traditionally dress in long skirts and long-sleeved shirts, covering their hair if they are married. Men and women sit separately at synagogues and weddings and unrelated women and men refrain from physical contact.

Ultra-Orthodox media, which include four daily newspapers, two main weeklies and two main web sites, cater to conservative ideals that include preserving women's modesty and skipping topics involving drugs, murder and sex. Many consider showing pictures of women a violation of those values, however newsworthy the figure.

So Haredi media use pictures of the White House, Democratic running mate Tim Kaine or even Bill Clinton instead of showing Hillary's face.

The issue sparked discussion in Israel this year when Yated Neeman, the largest ultra-Orthodox daily, published a story about Clinton's choice of Kaine as her running mate, accompanied by a photograph of Clinton's husband.

"Hey Yated Neeman, what will happen if Hillary really wins? Four years of photos of Bill?" tweeted journalist Yair Ettinger, who covers religion for the secular daily Haaretz.

Beni Rabinovich, a journalist with Yated Neeman, tweeted back that the Haredi press has "a clear and rigid line on this issue. Without Bill or with Bill, we'll manage."

Yaakov Lustigman, foreign affairs reporter for the popular Haredi newspaper Hamevaser, said his readers are fascinated by the U.S. elections and "we have no problem with there being a female president" — but they don't want to see Clinton's picture or even read her first name.

Hamevaser achieved notoriety when it edited German Chancellor Angela Merkel out of a picture of world leaders marching through Paris after extremists attacked the offices of the satirical Charlie Hebdo magazine in 2015.

Homodia, a veteran ultra-Orthodox paper, is the only current Haredi daily that existed during the administration of Meir, Israel's only female prime minister. A reporter there said that at the time, in the early 1970s, the newspaper did not publish her picture.

News site Kikar Hashabbat publishes demure photographs of Clinton and other female leaders, according to foreign affairs reporter Israel Cohen.

"Hillary Clinton is in her 60s. She's solid, she dresses modestly and she's likely to be the next president," Cohen said. "You cannot ignore it."

But it is the lone exception, and journalists at rival publications said they don't consider the site to be truly Haredi because of its policy.

Rivka Neria-Ben Shahar, an expert on Haredi media at Sapir College in Sderot, said ultra-Orthodox newspapers have become more conservative in the past decades — but her studies show Haredi women today overwhelmingly support the policy.

Ultra-Orthodox rabbis, some with tens of thousands of followers, set the guidelines for what is acceptable in their communities. Several ultra-Orthodox papers have rabbinical committees overseeing their content, and journalists say the issue of whether to publish Hillary Clinton's picture hasn't been discussed.

Behadrei Haredim, headquartered in the ultra-Orthodox enclave of Bnei Brak near Tel Aviv, walks a tight line between conservative ideals and the modern essence of being online.

Shwartz, the editor, said he gets about 1 million unique visits to the site a month, with users coming from Israel and around the world. The only photographs of women are in a section called "women's lobby," which focuses on cooking, motherhood and lifestyle. Users entering this area are warned that



only women should proceed.

Atara Sternbuch, an observant woman who runs the site's English section, said the lack of women's pictures on the main site is "just not an issue." She said people who want to see pictures of Hillary Clinton can search elsewhere. "We want to make it comfortable to our readers who don't want to be exposed to that," she said.

American ultra-Orthodox media have traditionally shied away from publishing women's pictures as well. But the prospect of a Clinton presidency is stirring some debate. One newspaper recently broke a taboo by publishing a picture of Hillary Clinton's hand.

Rabbi Yitzchok Frankfurter, editor of the weekly Ami Magazine in New York, said he would consider printing Clinton's photograph if rabbinical authorities allow it.

"We don't want to isolate the executive branch of the U.S. government," Frankfurter said. "It's too important for us as Jews who are citizens of the U.S. and as Jews who are friends of Israel."

Sheldon Schorer, former chairman of Democrats Abroad Israel, derided the policy of excluding women's pictures and said it put Clinton at a disadvantage.

"I don't think the Jewish religion really requires that."

## **In Iran, unique system allows payments for kidney donors**

**NASSER KARIMI, Associated Press**

**JON GAMBRELL, Associated Press**

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — The whirling hum of a dialysis machine could have been the soundtrack to the rest of Zahra Hajikarimi's life but for an unusual program in Iran that allows people to buy a kidney from a living donor.

Iran's kidney program stands apart from other organ donation systems around the world by openly allowing payments, typically of several thousand dollars. It has helped effectively eliminate the country's kidney transplant waiting list since 1999, the government says, in contrast to Western nations like the United States, where tens of thousands hope for an organ and thousands die waiting each year.

Critics warn the system can prey on the poor in Iran's long-sanctioned economy, with ads promising cash for kidneys. The World Health Organization and other groups oppose "commercializing" organ transplants. Some argue such a paid system in the U.S. or elsewhere could put those who cannot afford to pay at a disadvantage in securing a kidney if they need one.

But as black-market organ sales continue in countries like India, the Philippines and Pakistan and many die each year waiting for kidneys, some doctors and other experts have urged America and other nations to consider adopting aspects of Iran's system to save lives.

"Some donors have financial motivations. We can't say they don't. If (those donors) didn't have financial motives, they wouldn't ... donate a kidney," Hashem Ghasemi, the head of the patient-run Dialysis and Transplant Patients Association of Iran, told The Associated Press. "And some people just have charitable motivations."

The AP gained rare access to Iran's program, visiting patients on dialysis waiting for an organ, speaking to a man preparing to sell one of his kidneys and watching surgeons in Tehran perform a transplant. All of those interviewed stressed the altruistic nature of the program — even as graffiti scrawled on walls and trees near hospitals in Iran's capital advertised people offering to sell a kidney for cash.

As far as organ donations go, kidneys are unique. While people are born with two, most can live a full, healthy life with just one filtering waste from their blood. And although a donor and recipient must have a compatible blood type, transplants from unrelated donors are as successful as those from a close relative. In addition, kidneys from a living donor have a significantly better long-term survival rate than

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those from a deceased donor.

Iran started kidney transplants in 1967 but surgeries slowed after the 1979 Islamic Revolution and the storming of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran, in part due to sanctions. Iran allowed patients to travel abroad through much of the 1980s for transplants — including to America. But high costs, an ever-growing waiting list of patients and Iran's grinding eight-year war with Iraq forced the country to abandon the travel-abroad program.

In 1988, Iran created the program it has today. A person needing a kidney is referred to the Dialysis and Transplant Patients Association, which matches those needing a kidney with a potential healthy adult donor. The government pays for the surgeries, while the donor gets health coverage for at least a year and reduced rates on health insurance for years after that from government hospitals.

Those who broker the connection receive no payment. They help negotiate whatever financial compensation the donor receives, usually the equivalent of \$4,500. They also help determine when Iranian charities or wealthy individuals cover the costs for those who cannot afford to pay for a kidney.

Today, more than 1,480 people receive a kidney transplant from a living donor in Iran each year, about 55 percent of the total of 2,700 transplants annually, according to government figures. Some 25,000 people undergo dialysis each year, but most don't seek transplants because they suffer other major health problems or are too old.

Some 8 to 10 percent of those who do apply are rejected due to poor health and other concerns. The average survival rate of those receiving a new kidney is between seven to 10 years, though some live longer, according to Iranian reports.

In the United States, about a third of kidney donations come from living donors. The average kidney from a deceased donor lasts 10 years, while one from a living donor averages about 15 years, according to Dr. David Klassen of the United Network for Organ Sharing, or UNOS, which oversees the U.S. transplant system. Recipients of living-donor kidneys in the U.S. fare better in part because they haven't been on dialysis as long before their transplant.

For Hajikarimi, a 52-year-old Iranian mother of two, a transplant can't come soon enough. Her kidneys failed, with doctors finding higher-than-normal protein levels in her urine, and she has been on dialysis for four months.

In that time, physicians determined Hajikarimi can undergo a transplant and the nonprofit group managing her case began looking for a donor, a process that typically takes up to six months. Then the recipient and the donor meet to agree to the financial arrangements before the surgery.

Iran says its system safeguards against black-market organ sales by having the nonprofit groups handle all arrangements and hold money in escrow until after the surgery. The government's Health Department also must approve the surgeries, which take place in licensed and monitored hospitals. Foreigners are now largely banned from taking part, squelching the possibility of medical tourism.

However, it's clear that some donors are motivated by the cash payout. Inflation and unemployment remain high in Iran even after last year's nuclear deal with world powers that saw some sanctions lifted.

One man said he applied to sell one of his kidneys to pay off his debts. Debtors can be imprisoned in Iran.

"I am here because if I don't get the money my entire life will be ruined," said the man, who spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of ruining his professional image. "My life and my public face are in danger. This has driven me to do this."

Poverty around the world drives black market kidney sales, a lucrative business the World Health Organization estimated represented at least 5 percent of all transplants in 2005, though it acknowledges that figure is only a guess. The U.N. health agency's guiding principles on organ transplantation call for

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banning organ sales, though it allows for "reimbursing reasonable and verifiable expenses," including the loss of income by a living donor.

Iran's system offers a different way to address the lack of kidneys for transplant around the world, said Sigrid Fry-Revere, an expert on the program whose book, "The Kidney Sellers: A Journey of Discovery in Iran," examines it in depth.

"You cannot put a price on an organ," said Fry-Revere, who is president and co-founder of the American Living Organ Donor Network. "This is rewarded goodwill. This is two people getting together to help make each other's lives better."

In the U.S., there are more than 99,000 patients currently on the waiting list for a kidney transplant. Last year, there were 17,878 transplants, while 4,481 died waiting, according to UNOS. A 1984 U.S. law makes organ sales illegal.

A series of academic papers and opinion pieces in recent years by doctors and prominent economists like Nobel Prize winner Alvin Roth have explored the idea of allowing paid kidney donations in the U.S. An article in October's edition of the American Journal of Transplantation written by three physicians and an economist proposed a system in which the U.S. government would pay \$45,000 to a living kidney donor and \$10,000 to the family of a deceased donor.

"Such compensation would be considered an expression of appreciation by society for someone who has given the gift of life to another," the paper said.

Some ethicists and doctors argue that compensating donors in the U.S. would put the poor at a disadvantage of getting a transplant while also pressuring them to offer their organs for sale when they face financial trouble.

"We still think profiteering or someone making a profit from a sale and making this a commercial enterprise is a slippery slope," said Kevin Longino, the CEO of the National Kidney Foundation in the U.S. "It's still an easy way to exploit poor people and underprivileged people."

Longino, who received a kidney transplant himself in 2004, said his organization does support so-called "profit-neutral" transplants, which would allow donors to receive support for medical care, lost wages and other aid so long as they don't make a profit from the operation.

However, Longino acknowledged confusion lingers about what is and what isn't allowed under American law, leading to trouble for even "profit-neutral" aid.

For now, Hajikarimi spends more than two hours riding on three subway lines three times a week to get to the hospital where she is hooked up to a dialysis machine. For her, a living donor is a chance at a new lease on life she otherwise wouldn't have.

"It would be very difficult to imagine a life without the possibility of a kidney donation," she said. "There is no way to recover. ... It would have been a total mess and agonizing."

## Clinton's Gold Rush: \$18 million raised on three-day swing

LISA LERER, Associated Press

REDWOOD CITY, Calif. (AP) — Hillary Clinton mingled with Hall of Fame basketball player Magic Johnson and Apple CEO Tim Cook, vamped in a photo booth with actor Justin Timberlake and dined with some of California's richest families on what was likely the most lucrative fundraising swing of her presidential campaign.

The Democratic presidential candidate raised \$18 million on a three-day trip through California, or roughly \$270,000 an hour.

The visit to the West Coast comes amid a prosperous August for Clinton's campaign, with the candidate and her surrogates hosting at least 54 events over the final two weeks of the month, according to

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a fundraising schedule obtained by The Associated Press. A weekend trip to Cape Cod featured stops at seaside estates and a Sunday "summer celebration" with the pop star Cher.

Clinton is trying to use the relatively quiet month of August, when voters are more focused on vacation than politics, to fill her campaign war chest.

In the Golden State, many of her events were at well-worn stops on the Democratic money trail. In Los Angeles, she stopped by Johnson's Beverly Hills compound, where she spoke to the 500 supporters gathered outside.

Then she headed a few houses down the street to entertainment executive Haim Saban's sprawling property, where she was feted at a 100-person dinner on grounds that included some of Saban's lighted animal-shaped topiary. The price of admission: \$50,000 a plate.

President Barack Obama had visited the same homes in 2013. But unlike Obama, who allows reporters to observe some of his opening remarks to donors, Clinton leaves the press waiting outside in vans and guesthouses, giving no hints at what she might be telling some of the country's most powerful people.

Behind closed doors, Clinton soothed the worries and answered the questions of some of her most ardent backers.

At an intimate Bay Area dinner for 30, one donor asked about "healthers," likening the unfounded rumors about Clinton's health to the so-called birthers who questioned Obama's birthplace.

Outside the Piedmont mansion, a crowd of children and their parents waited over two hours for Clinton, chanting her name in the chilly night air.

Clinton emerged from the home and, for about a few brief moments, campaigned. She made her way down the hastily assembled police line, shaking hands, snapping selfies and admiring the homemade signs.

Then it was back in the motorcade to prepare for another busy day raising money

## **World's first self-driving taxis debut in Singapore**

**ANNABELLE LIANG, Associated Press**

**DEE-ANN DURBIN, Associated Press**

SINGAPORE (AP) — The world's first self-driving taxis began picking up passengers in Singapore starting Thursday.

Select members of the public can hail a free ride through their smartphones in taxis operated by nuTonomy, an autonomous vehicle software startup. While multiple companies, including Google and Volvo, have been testing self-driving cars on public roads for several years, nuTonomy says it is the first to offer rides to the public.

Its launch in Singapore is beating ride-hailing service Uber, which plans to offer rides in autonomous cars in Pittsburgh, by a few weeks.

NuTonomy is starting small — six cars now, growing to a dozen by the end of the year. The ultimate goal, company executives say, is to have a fully self-driving taxi fleet in Singapore by 2018, to help cut the number of cars on Singapore's congested roads. Eventually, the model could be adopted in cities around the world, nuTonomy hopes.

For now, the taxis only run in a 2.5-square-mile (6.5 square kilometer) business and residential district called "one-north," and pick-ups and drop-offs are limited to specified locations. Riders must have an invitation from nuTonomy to use the service. The company says dozens have signed up for the launch, and it plans to expand that list to thousands of people within a few months.



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The cars — modified Renault Zoe and Mitsubishi i-MiEV electrics — have a driver in front who is prepared to take back the wheel and a researcher in back who watches the car's computers. Each car is fitted with six sets of Lidar — a detection system that uses lasers to operate like radar — including one that constantly spins on the roof. There are also two cameras on the dashboard to scan for obstacles and detect changes in traffic lights.

The testing time-frame is open-ended, said nuTonomy CEO Karl Iagnemma. Eventually, riders may start paying for the service, and more pick-up and drop-off points will be added. NuTonomy also is working on testing similar taxi services in other Asian cities, the U.S. and Europe, but he wouldn't say when.

"I don't expect there to be a time where we say, 'We've learned enough,'" Iagnemma said.

Doug Parker, nuTonomy's chief operating officer, said autonomous taxis could ultimately reduce the number of cars on Singapore's roads from 900,000 to 300,000.

"When you are able to take that many cars off the road, it creates a lot of possibilities. You can create smaller roads, you can create much smaller car parks," Parker said. "I think it will change how people interact with the city going forward."

NuTonomy, a 50-person company with offices in Massachusetts and Singapore, was formed in 2013 by Iagnemma and Emilio Frazzoli, Massachusetts Institute of Technology researchers who were studying robotics and developing autonomous vehicles for the Defense Department. Earlier this year, the company was the first to win approval from Singapore's government to test self-driving cars in one-north. NuTonomy announced a research partnership with Singapore's Land Transport Authority earlier this month.

Singapore is ideal because it has good weather, great infrastructure and drivers who tend to obey traffic rules, Iagnemma says. As a land-locked island, the city of 5.4 million people is seeking creative ways to grow its economy, so it's been supportive of autonomous vehicle research.

Auto supplier Delphi Corp., which also is working on autonomous vehicle software, was recently selected to test autonomous vehicles on the island and plans to start next year.

"We face constraints in land and manpower. We want to take advantage of self-driving technology to overcome such constraints," said Pang Kin Keong, Singapore's Permanent Secretary for Transport and the chairman of its committee on autonomous driving.

Olivia Seow, 25, works in startup partnerships in one-north and is one of the riders nuTonomy selected, took a test ride of less than a mile on Monday. She said she was nervous when she got into the car, and then surprised as she watched the steering wheel turn by itself.

"It felt like there was a ghost or something," she said.

But she quickly relaxed. The ride was smooth and controlled, she said, and she was relieved to see that the car recognized even small obstacles like birds and motorcycles parked in the distance.

"I couldn't see them with my human eye, but the car could, so I knew that I could trust the car," said Seow, who hopes to use the time freed up during her commute, thanks to the technology, or use the service to help her father get around town as he grows older.

An Associated Press reporter taking a ride Wednesday saw the safety driver step on the brakes once, when a car was obstructing the test car's lane and another vehicle, which had appeared to be parked, suddenly began moving in the oncoming lane.

Iagnemma said the company is confident that its software can make good decisions. The company hopes its head start in autonomous driving will eventually lead to partnerships with automakers, tech companies, logistics companies and others.

"What we're finding is the number of interested parties is really overwhelming," he said.

## Attack on American University in Afghanistan leaves 10 dead

LYNNE O'DONNELL, Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — A brazen, hours-long militant attack on the American University of Afghanistan ended early on Thursday after at least 10 people were killed and dozens were wounded, a government spokesman said.

The dead included seven students, two police officers and a security guard, according to Interior Ministry spokesman Sediq Sediqqi. No group has yet claimed responsibility for the assault but suspicion is likely to fall on the Taliban.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid would only tell the media that the group is "investigating."

"Most of the dead were killed by gunshots near the windows of their classrooms," Sediqqi said. At least 37 people were wounded, he said, including seven police officers.

The assault began just before 7 p.m. Wednesday with a suicide car bombing at the university's entrance that breached the security walls and allowed two "terrorists" to enter the campus, he said.

They were armed with grenades and automatic weapons. The siege of the university lasted almost nine hours, before police killed the two assailants around 3.30 am, he said.

More than 150 students who had been trapped in university buildings had been rescued by special police units.

Earlier, the Kabul police chief Abdul Rahman Rahimi said one foreign teacher was among the wounded.

The university, located on the edge of Kabul, was established in 2006 to offer liberal arts courses modeled on the U.S. system, and has more than 1,000 students currently enrolled.

University authorities could not immediately be reached for comment.

Dejan Panic, the program director at Kabul's Emergency Hospital, said 18 people wounded in the attack, including five women, had been admitted. He said three were "seriously" wounded, probably from automatic gunfire.

AP photographer Massoud Hossaini was in a classroom with 15 students when he heard an explosion on the southern flank of the campus.

"I went to the window to see what was going on, and I saw a person in normal clothes outside. He shot at me and shattered the glass," Hossaini said, adding that he fell on the glass and cut his hands.

The students then barricaded themselves inside the classroom, pushing chairs and desks against the door, and staying on the floor. Hossaini said at least two grenades were thrown into the classroom, wounding several of his classmates.

Hossaini and about nine students later managed to escape from the campus through an emergency gate.

"As we were running, I saw someone lying on the ground face down, they looked like they had been shot in the back," he said.

Hossaini and the other students took refuge in a residential house near the campus, and were later safely evacuated by Afghan security forces.

The Pentagon said U.S. military advisers were on the ground with Afghan security forces at the university. Spokesman Adam Stump said the forces had been embedded with the Afghan units.

The attack on AUAF comes two weeks after two university staff, an American and an Australian, were kidnapped from their car by unknown gunmen. Their whereabouts are still unknown.

The U.S. State Department condemned what it called "an attack on the future of Afghanistan."

The Taliban have been fighting to overthrow the Kabul government for 15 years, and regard foreign civilians as legitimate targets.

## Colombia's president rushing plebiscite on deal with rebels

JOSHUA GOODMAN, Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — Colombia's president is moving fast to hold a plebiscite on a landmark peace deal reached with leftist rebels, presenting to congress Thursday the full text of the accord that he says will end a half-century of bloody combat.

"Today is the beginning of the end to the suffering, pain and tragedy of war," President Juan Manuel Santos said Wednesday night in a televised address after the deal was announced in Havana, where talks went on for four years. He said he would hold an Oct. 2 yes-or-no vote on the accord with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia.

He planned to make the full text of the accord public Thursday as it is formally delivered to congress, which cannot block the plebiscite.

"It's in your hands, of all Colombians, to decide with your vote to support this historic accord that puts an end to this long conflict between the children of the same nation," he said.

As Santos spoke, some 400 residents of Colombia's capital gathered at a plaza to celebrate the country's best chances of closing out decades of political violence that killed more than 220,000 people and driven more than 5 million from their homes. Several carried candles and were dressed in white to symbolize peace while a giant red, blue and yellow national flag was carried through the crowd.

"I can die in peace because finally I'll see my country without violence with a future for my children," Orlando Guevara, 57, said tearfully.

Negotiators reached the accord after working around the clock for several days hammering out the final sensitive details left to the end of the talks.

Among last-minute concessions were guarantees that the FARC's still unnamed political movement will have a minimum of 10 seats in congress for two legislative periods. After 2026, the former rebels will have to prove their political strength at the ballot box

"We've won the most beautiful of all battles: the peace of Colombia," the chief FARC negotiator, alias Ivan Marquez, said at the announcement in Havana.

As soon as his speech finished, the emotional crowd on the plaza in Bogota sang the national anthem and shouted "Viva Colombia! Yes to Peace!"

Congratulations poured in from the United Nations, which will play a key role keeping the peace, and regional governments. U.S. President Barack Obama also welcomed the deal.

The accord commits Colombia's government to carrying out aggressive land reform, overhauling its anti-narcotics strategy and greatly expanding the state's presence in long-neglected areas.

The FARC were forced to the negotiating table in 2012 after a decade of heavy battlefield losses inflicted by the U.S.-back military. Several top rebel commanders were killed and its ranks thinned by half to the current 7,000 guerrillas.

Overcoming decades of animosity will be tough: Polls say most Colombians loathe the rebel group and show no hesitation labeling them "narco-terrorists" for their heavy involvement in Colombia's cocaine trade, an association for which members of the group's top leadership have been indicted in the U.S. But surveys also indicate Colombians will likely endorse a deal.

Santos, an unlikely peacemaker given his role as architect of the military offensive that battered the FARC, maintained a steady pulse throughout the negotiations even as he was called a traitor by his conservative former allies and suffered a plunge in approval ratings.

The most contentious breakthrough came last September when Santos traveled to Havana to lay out with FARC commander Rodrigo Londono a framework for investigating atrocities, punishing guerrillas for involvement in those abuses and offering compensation to victims.

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Opponents of Santos and some human rights groups harshly criticized a key part of that deal which would let rebels who confess their crimes avoid jail and instead serve reduced sentences of no more than eight years by helping rebuild communities hit by the conflict.

The "agreement fails to fulfill the rights of those who suffered some of the worst atrocities committed during the Colombian armed conflict and opens the door to perpetuating the country's cycles of impunity," said Jose Miguel Vivanco, the Americas director for Human Rights Watch

Santos' plebiscite is not without risks. Given Colombian antipathy to the rebels, Britain's stunning vote to leave the European Union is a cautionary tale.

Colombia's opposition is likely to try to convert the vote into a referendum on Santos, whose approval rating plummeted to 21 percent in May, according to a Gallup poll. That is the lowest since he took office in 2010.

Low voter turnout is also a concern because a minimum of 13 percent of the registered voters, or about 4.4 million voters, must vote in favor for the accord to be ratified.

"We think we've done the best possible job, but it's the Colombians who will judge us," chief government negotiator Humberto de la Calle said. "We have to wait for the citizens' verdict."

After the agreement is signed — the date is still unknown — the FARC will begin mobilizing its troops to 31 zones scattered across Colombia, and 90 days later they are supposed to begin handing their weapons over to U.N.-sponsored monitors.

Over the 13 months since the FARC declared a unilateral cease-fire and the government reciprocated with an unofficial truce, violence has fallen to the lowest level since the movement was created 52 years ago by outlaw peasant groups joined by communist activists.

But analysts are concerned that as the rebels integrate into Colombian society, well-organized criminal gangs will fill the void and fight among themselves for control of the country's lucrative cocaine trade, which kept the FARC well-armed much longer than other Latin American insurgencies.

The much-smaller National Liberation Army also remains active, although it's pursuing a peace deal of its own.

## Trump, aiming to widen support, makes pitch to Hispanics

**JONATHAN LEMIRE, Associated Press**

TAMPA, Florida (AP) — Visiting a battleground state he can't afford to lose, Donald Trump promised Hispanics "a much better life" Wednesday in a Florida speech that continued his recent effort to soften his tone and broaden his support 11 weeks before the presidential election.

And, in an interview, he suggested he would "work with" some of the immigrants in the United States illegally, stopping short of proposing a legal path to remaining in the country but suggesting a startling about-face from his previous hard-line mass deportation proposal.

Yet the Republican presidential candidate also repeated his promise to build a wall along the U.S.-Mexican border to keep out immigrants, underscoring the tricky balancing act he faces in retaining backing from conservatives while beckoning to moderates for their votes.

"I am going to fight to give every Hispanic citizen a much better future, a much better life," Trump told a crowd in Tampa as polls show him trailing in the critical state. "You have the right to walk outside without being shot. You have a right to a good education for your child. You have the right to own your home. You have the right to have a good job."

At a rally later Wednesday in Jackson, Mississippi, Trump repeated his claim that Democratic rival Hillary Clinton "is a bigot who sees people of color only as votes."



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Clinton scoffed at that accusation during an interview Wednesday night on CNN. "He is taking a hate movement mainstream," she said, arguing Trump is "very much peddling bigotry and prejudice and paranoia."

Trump dominated presidential campaign coverage for the day as Clinton was fundraising in California. Her drive for the White House got a rhetorical boost when her defeated competitor for her party's nomination, Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, told The Associated Press that he'll campaign actively for Clinton this fall. Sanders, who turns 75 on Sept. 8, also said he's leaning toward seeking re-election as an independent senator in 2018.

Trump's appeal to Hispanics largely echoed his recent outreach to African-Americans. He rarely tried to explicitly lure minority voters during his unlikely rise to the GOP nomination earlier this year.

Now facing a bigger electorate, Trump suggested Hispanics have been taken for granted by Democrats. He said the 600,000 Latino-owned businesses in Florida would benefit under his economic plan, but he offered few specifics.

"Hispanics are tired of being used by these phony politicians," Trump roared above the rumbles of a thunderstorm audible inside. "I say, what do you have to lose? I will fix it."

Hispanics make up a sizable and growing percentage of Florida's population. Trump will have a narrow path to the White House without winning the Sunshine State, where he owns several resorts and which he dubbed "his second home" on Wednesday.

Trump made no mention at the rally, largely attended by white supporters, of his remarks Tuesday that he would consider "softening" laws dealing with immigrants in the country illegally. But in an interview broadcast on Fox News Channel, he said that while he would not allow citizenship, he would "work with" those in the country illegally.

"Let me go a step further," Trump said. "They'll pay back taxes, they have to pay taxes, there's no amnesty, as such, there's no amnesty, but we work with them."

That is a far cry from the early days of the GOP primaries, when Trump vowed to use a "deportation force" to round up and deport the millions of people living in the country illegally, and appears to be far more in line with the more moderate plans that Trump criticized when they were floated by his Republican primary rivals.

In Jackson, Trump said, "Any immigration policy I support as president must pass these three tests," before broadly saying it must improve the wages, safety and quality of life of U.S. citizens.

Trump also made a similar outreach to black voters and called Clinton "a bigot" for allegedly taking for granted the support of minority voters.

Trump aides confirmed he will soon tour churches, local businesses and charter schools in black and Hispanic urban neighborhoods. Dr. Ben Carson, a close ally and former GOP primary rival, said he will accompany Trump on at least one visit.

Trump, in Mississippi, linked the movement fueling his campaign to the United Kingdom's vote to leave the European Union — and brought Nigel Farage, an architect of Britain's successful "Brexit" campaign, up on stage.

Meanwhile, one of Trump's most reliable allies made plans to aid him this fall. The National Rifle Association's political victory fund has reserved about \$2.7 million in TV commercials in September and October, Kantar Media's political ad tracker shows. The NRA is focusing on swing states Ohio, North Carolina and Pennsylvania.

## Asian shares waver in thin trading after Wall Street decline

**ELAINE KURTENBACH, AP Business Writer**

NEW YORK (AP) — Shares wavered in thin but volatile trading in Asia on Thursday, following a bleak day on Wall Street led by declines in health-care stocks as outrage mounts over steep price hikes for Mylan's EpiPens. Investors are awaiting a speech by Federal Reserve chair Janet Yellen's on Friday.

KEEPING SCORE: Japan's Nikkei 225 index fell 0.3 percent to 16,555.11 while Shanghai's Composite index lost 0.7 percent to 3,064.52. The Hang Seng in Hong Kong was flat at 22,830.12 and South Korea's Kospi edged 0.1 percent lower to 2,045.47. Shares in Southeast Asia were mixed and Australia's S&P/ASX 200 was flat at 5,561.60.

WALL STREET: The Dow Jones industrial average lost 0.4 percent to 18,481.48, the Standard & Poor's 500 index lost 0.5 percent to 2,175.44 and the Nasdaq composite lost 0.8 percent to 5,217.69. Losses deepened with a late-day sell-off in drugmakers. Mylan dropped \$2.47, or 5.5 percent, to \$43.15 after falling nearly 5 percent the day before. But shares are trading in a narrow range with many traders on vacation and sparse new economic data.

MYLAN'S TROUBLE: Outrage over Mylan's price increases for its EpiPens, medical devices used to deliver adrenaline to a patient suffering from a potentially fatal allergic reaction. Mylan bought the rights to the product in 2007 and has raised the price from roughly \$100 for two pens to roughly \$600. Presidential candidate Hillary Clinton issued a statement Wednesday calling Mylan's price increases "outrageous" and called for the company to slash prices for EpiPens.

FED WATCH: Investors are awaiting Yellen's speech at an annual conference of central bankers in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. The Fed is expected to hold off on raising interest rates at its September meeting, but Yellen's comments may offer clues on the likelihood and timing of a future hike.

ANALYST VIEWPOINT: "The Asian session looks like it will struggle at the open after a poor close from U.S. markets. Low volumes and cautious trade are likely to dictate markets in the lead up to Janet Yellen's speech on Friday," Angus Nicholson of IG said in a market note.

ENERGY: Benchmark crude oil edged up 1 cent to \$46.78 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. It fell \$1.33 to \$46.77 a barrel on Wednesday. Brent crude, which is used to price oil internationally, lost 2 cents to \$49.03. It fell 91 cents to \$49.05 a barrel in London.

CURRENCIES: The dollar was nearly flat at 100.47 yen while the euro rose to \$1.1268 from \$1.1263.

## Today in History The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Thursday, Aug. 25, the 238th day of 2016. There are 128 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Aug. 25, 1916, President Woodrow Wilson signed an act establishing the National Park Service within the Department of the Interior.

On this date:

In 1718, hundreds of French colonists arrived in Louisiana, with some settling in present-day New Orleans.

In 1825, Uruguay declared independence from Brazil.

In 1921, the United States signed a peace treaty with Germany.

In 1944, during World War II, Paris was liberated by Allied forces after four years of Nazi occupation. Romania declared war on former ally Germany.

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In 1958, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed a measure providing pensions for former U.S. presidents and their widows.

In 1960, opening ceremonies were held for the Summer Olympics in Rome.

In 1975, the Bruce Springsteen album "Born to Run" was released by Columbia Records.

In 1981, the U.S. spacecraft Voyager 2 came within 63,000 miles of Saturn's cloud cover, sending back pictures of and data about the ringed planet.

In 1989, Voyager 2 made its closest approach to Neptune, its final planetary target.

In 1998, retired Supreme Court Justice Lewis F. Powell died in Richmond, Virginia, at age 90.

In 2001, Mette-Marit Tjessem Hoiby (meh-tay mar-it shes-em hoy-bee), a single mother and former waitress, married Norway's Crown Prince Haakon (hoh-uh-kahn) in Oslo. Rhythm-and-blues singer Aaliyah (ah-LEE'-yah) was killed with eight others in a plane crash in the Bahamas; she was 22.

In 2009, Sen. Edward M. Kennedy died at age 77 in Hyannis Port, Massachusetts, after a battle with a brain tumor.

Ten years ago: A college student's checked luggage on a Continental Airlines flight that had arrived in Houston from Buenos Aires, Argentina, was found to contain a stick of dynamite, one of six security incidents that day that caused U.S. flights to be diverted, evacuated or searched. Joseph Stefano, who wrote the screenplay for Alfred Hitchcock's "Psycho," died in Thousand Oaks, California, at age 84.

Five years ago: Fifty-two people were killed in a fire at a casino in the northern Mexican city of Monterrey that was allegedly targeted by a drug cartel. The New York Yankees became the first team in major league history to hit three grand slams in a game, with Robinson Cano, Russell Martin and Curtis Granderson connecting in a 22-9 romp over the Oakland Athletics.

One year ago: French authorities formally opened a terrorism investigation into a foiled attack four days earlier; a prosecutor said minutes before he slung an assault rifle across his chest and walked through a high-speed train, suspect Ayoub El-Khazzani of Morocco watched a jihadi video on his cell-phone.

Today's Birthdays: Game show host Monty Hall is 95. Actor Sean Connery is 86. Actor Page Johnson is 86. TV personality Regis Philbin is 85. Actor Tom Skerritt is 83. Jazz musician Wayne Shorter is 83. Movie director Hugh Hudson is 80. Author Frederick Forsyth is 78. Movie director John Badham is 77. Filmmaker Marshall Brickman is 77. Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal is 74. Rhythm-and-blues singer Walter Williams (The O'Jays) is 73. Actor Anthony Heald is 72. Rock singer-actor Gene Simmons is 67. Actor John Savage is 67. Country singer-musician Henry Paul (Outlaws; Blackhawk) is 67. Rock singer Rob Halford is 65. Rock musician Geoff Downes (Asia) is 64. Rock singer Elvis Costello is 62. Movie director Tim Burton is 58. Actor Christian LeBlanc is 58. Actress Ashley Crow is 56. Actress Ally Walker is 55. Country singer Billy Ray Cyrus is 55. Actress Joanne Whalley is 55. Rock musician Vivian Campbell (Def Leppard) is 54. Actor Blair Underwood is 52. Actor Robert Maschio is 50. Rap DJ Terminator X (Public Enemy) is 50. Alternative country singer Jeff Tweedy (Wilco) is 49. Actor David Alan Basche (BAYSH) is 48. Television chef Rachael Ray is 48. Actor Cameron Mathison is 47. Country singer Jo Dee Messina is 46. Model Claudia Schiffer is 46. Country singer Brice Long is 45. Actor Eric Millegan is 42. Actor Alexander Skarsgard is 40. Actor Jonathan Togo is 39. Actor Kel Mitchell is 38. Actress Rachel Bilson is 35. Actress Blake Lively is 29. Actor Josh Flitter is 22.

Thought for Today: "History is the sum total of the things that could have been avoided." — Konrad Adenauer, German statesman (1876-1967).