

# Groton Daily Independent

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## Thursday, Oct. 6

School Lunch: BBQ, baked beans, romaine salad, fruit.  
School Breakfast: Mini pancakes, fruit, jucie, milk.  
Senior Menu: Chicken fried steak, mashed potatoes and gravy, corn, frosted brownie, whole wheat bread.  
Juniors post-high planning day in Aberdeen  
3:30 p.m.: NEC Cross Country meet in Webster  
4:30 p.m.: 7th and 8th grade volleyball match with Clark/Willow Lake in Groton. JV match to follow at 6 p.m. (No C Match). Varsity to follow.

## Friday, Oct. 7

School Lunch: Soft shell taco, lettuce and tomato, fruit, broccoli and dip.  
School Breakfast: Ceral, yogurt, fruit, juice, milk.  
Senior Menu: Baked fish, au gratin potatoes, 3-bean salad, peach cobbler, whole wheat bread.  
7 p.m.: Football at Wagner

Saturday, Oct. 8

9:00 am: Volleyball tourney in Redfield

## 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

**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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(6397)



**Kristi Peterson Bookkeeping**  
Simple Solutions for YOU  
605/216-4474 ~ peterson4@nvc.net

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## Bus Drivers 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.

## Bates Township Mowing Notice

### BATES TOWNSHIP WEED NOTICE

OWNERS & TENANTS of Bates Township are hereby notified and required, according to law, to cut all weeds and grass in road ditches adjacent to their property or tenanted by them within Bates township on or before October 1, 2016 or same will be hired done by the township board and assessed property taxes at the rate of \$300 per half mile.

Bates Township Board of Supervisors  
Betty Geist  
Township Clerk

## Bates Township Right-Of-Way Notice

Bates Township Board of Supervisors reminds all landowners and tenants that the road right-of-way extends 33 feet from the center of the township road. This ditch is to be maintained and mowed. Any crops planted in the road right-of-way will be mowed and charged to the landowner, effective with the 2017 growing season.

Bates Township Board of Supervisors  
Betty Geist  
Township Clerk  
(0928.1005)

## THE CIRCUS SPORTS BAR & GRILL



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Famous  
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6 Wings	\$5.99
12 Wings	\$10.99
20 Wings	\$16.99
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## Groton's First Pumpkin Fest

Saturday, Oct. 8, 2016

10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Groton City Park



to and from the  
Pumpkin Patch

Pumpkin Painting



Face Painting

Train  
Rides for  
Little Ones



Inflatables

Fall Mini Photo Sessions  
by Jamie Simon

Call 397-2593 or 281-0530 for an appointment.  
Limited spots available.



Lunch Served 11-1

Alternate Date: 10/9/2016 ~ Thanks to our many sponsors!!

## Weekly Vikings Roundup

By Jordan Wright

On Monday night, under the bright lights of US Bank Stadium, Eli Manning and Odell Beckham Jr came to town looking to knock the Vikings from the ranks of the undefeated. In a game that was physical from the first whistle to the last, the Minnesota Vikings dominated the New York Giants 24-10.

The Vikings' defense has officially entered the "elite" conversation. Through the first four games of the season, the unit has faced some of the best quarterbacks in the NFL and has only given up 12.5 points per game. In the first three games of the season, the game plan was to get after the opposing QB. On Monday, the Vikings were held without a sack for the first time this year, but that didn't matter. This game was won in the secondary, who had five passes defended and caused Eli Manning to throw the ball away on many occasions.

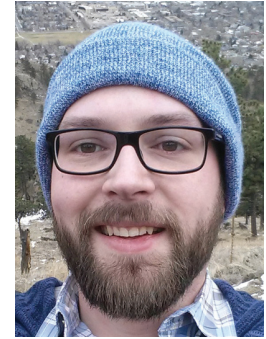
The Giants' defense was one of the worst in NFL history last season, and they spend over \$100 million in guaranteed money to fix it this past offseason. As we all know, money doesn't buy a winning team, and the Giants' defense isn't close to Minnesota's level. The Vikings' offense was able to take advantage, as Sam Bradford and company were able to get into the endzone three times. Minnesota was only averaging 51 rushing yards per game, but were finally able to get over 100 yards on the ground against the Giants.

The player of the game was Xavier Rhodes, who shadowed OBJ for most of the game. Odell Beckham is one of the best wide receivers in the league, and even though the ball was thrown his way nine times on Monday, he could only corral three of those passes for 23 yards which is the lowest of his career. Rhodes seems to step his game up when he's lined up against the best receivers in the league, shutting down the likes of Kelvin Benjamin and OBJ in consecutive weeks. If he can stay healthy, Xavier has the ability to be one of the best cornerbacks in the NFL.

The player who needs the most improvement is Eric Kendricks, who didn't even have a bad game. The entire team played so well that it was incredibly difficult to select a player for this section. Kendricks did miss a few tackles throughout the game, a couple of which were for a first down and a touchdown. Eric is a great young middle linebacker who is usually a sure tackler. This game was sort of an aberration, and I completely expect him to play better in the coming weeks.

Looking ahead, the Vikings welcome the Houston Texans next Sunday, October 9. Houston has a couple excellent receivers in DeAndre Hopkins and Will Fuller, and they also have a good running back in Lamar Miller. The Texans' defense was very good entering the year, but they recently lost All-World defensive lineman J.J. Watt to injury. The jury is out on how the team will respond after losing their leader, but surely Minnesota will enter as the heavy favorites.

**Jordan Wright has been a fan of the Minnesota Vikings since he was 4 years old. After graduating from Groton H.S., Jordan attended NDSU before moving to Portland OR. After recently moving back to South Dakota, he left his job in finance to pursue his dream of covering the Vikings and bringing his passion for the team to his readers.**



## Death Notice: Richard Johnson

Richard "Herb" Johnson, 73 of Conde fell asleep October 3, 2016 at his home. Services are pending with Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton.

## Don't miss the ball and boy jetting out from behind that car

By Richard P. Holm, MD

The first hint that I had glaucoma, came when I was at the eye doctor and it was discovered by machine testing that I had lost vision in the peripheral areas around but not including the center point of vision on my left eye. Loss of peripheral vision is a sign that glaucoma might be occurring, and indeed, when they measured the pressure within my eyes, it was increased on the left. I had no idea something was wrong.

An estimated three million people in the U.S. have glaucoma, one-half have no idea something is wrong, and 120,000 are blind as a result. Glaucoma is the second leading cause of blindness in the world, especially for those coming from African origins. Once discovered, we have treatment, so the best preventive move is to get routine glaucoma testing.

Glaucoma causes peripheral vision loss and preserves central vision until late in the disease. Central vision is that concentrated view we have of the object at which we are staring. It is the eye of the needle into which we are trying to put the thread; the subtle smile of the mysterious woman about which we are painting; the target into which we are aiming our arrow. Say it again, early on, central vision is preserved in glaucoma.

Remember, glaucoma causes progressive loss of peripheral vision. Peripheral vision is important, allowing us to see the shooting star that flashes suddenly from the eastern horizon, while we stare at the big dipper and the northern star; to see the ball and boy that might jet out from behind that car, while we drive down the road; to see the guy across the room who has captured our attention, while we secretly watch him with peripheral vision.

For comparison, macular degeneration, causes the opposite kind of loss to that of glaucoma, specifically, loss of central vision while preserving peripheral vision. Both conditions affect the retina, that blanket of nerves covering the back side of the eye, which, like a camera, captures the image of an autumn moon rising on a South Dakota lake, a wind wave of grass moving on a prairie hill, or the surprised face of discovery on a visiting grandchild.

Take home message: people don't realize there is peripheral vision loss resulting from glaucoma, until the damage has been done. Get in to have routine eye testing. You may have no idea something is wrong.

## Groton Senior Citizens

Groton Senior Citizens met September 12 with 24 members present. President Ella Johnson opened the meeting with pledge to the flag. Lee Schinkel played the piano. Eunice McColister read the secretary minutes from the Groton Independent paper. Treasurer gave her report. Seniors went to the RSVP volunteer recognition held by RSVP. A plaque and pin were given to Ella Stange for her volunteering 20 years. Bob and Ruth Pray were chosen King and Queen for the Senior Citizens. They rode in a cadillac driven by Ruby Donovan in the homecoming parade. On October 2 from 2:00 to 4:00 there was a memorial service for DeLoris Jorgen. Meeting was adjourned and cards played. The winners Bridge-Darlene Fischer, Whist- Dick Donovan, Pinochle- DeWayne and Don Dauwin, canasta- Pat Larson and Cindy Gimmel, Door prizes-Beulah Hoops, Don Dauwin and Wally Fisher. A Get Well card was sent to Ella Stange. Lunch was served by Marian Raines, Tony Goldade and Grace Albrecht.

On September 19, 2016 The Groton Area Senior Citizens met to celebrate September and October birthdays. Bingo was played. Pat Larson won blackout. Door prizes went to Lorraine Sippel, Marian Raines and Beulah Hoops. Cake and ice cream was served by Marian Raines, Beulah Hoops and Tony Goldade.

On September 26 The Groton Seniors met for a regular meeting. Twenty-six members attended. President Ella Johnson opened the meeting and all recited the flag pledge. Lee Schinkel played, the Battle Hymn of the Republic and all sang along. Minutes and treasures reports were read and accepted. A get well card was sent to Jan Raap. Meeting was adjourned and cards played the winners of the games. Pinochle-David Kleinsasser, Canosta- Beulah Hoops and Hazel McKitterick, Bridge -Wally Fischer,, Whist-Lorraine Sippel, Ella Johnson, and Elda Stange. Door prizes- Beulah Hoops, Wally Fischer, and Allan Zoellner. Lunch was served by Darlene Fischer, Ella Johnson and Mary Walker, A delicious lunch was served. Common table prayer was said before lunch.

## DOLLAR GENERAL IS HIRING!

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### New Store Opening in Groton, SD.

Need all Candidates to apply right away as the store will open in early December:

Store Manager

Assistant Store Manager

Lead Sales Associates

Sales Associates

To apply, go to [www.dollargeneral.com/careers](http://www.dollargeneral.com/careers)

- Click on "Store Careers", then click on "Apply Online"
- Click "Search by Location -> Zip Code" to search for positions in Groton, SD 57445
- Log in to apply

Again thank you for your interest in Dollar General.

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## DOLLAR GENERAL®

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## Today in Weather History

October 6, 1994: During the late afternoon hours, a small tornado traveled for 3 miles along an intermittent path east of Browns Valley damaging several buildings on a local farmstead. Another tornado touched down east of Wilmot, South Dakota in Roberts County. The tornado was on the ground for eight miles and destroyed several small farm buildings, a garage, damaged farm machinery, blew down a grain bin, and uprooted several trees. Several hogs were killed when their shed was destroyed and minor damage was done to some homes. The tornado drove a 6 foot long 1x6 piece of lumber through the center of a large tree limb.

1836 - A second early season snowstorm produced eleven inches at Wilkes Barre PA and 26 inches at Auburn NY. All the mountains in the northeastern U.S. were whitened with snow. (David Ludlum)

1967: A Canadian weather record one-day rainfall of 19.3 inches falls at Brynnor Mines at Ucluelet.

1981: The Netherlands four worst aircraft accident (at the time) occurred on this day. At 5:09 PM, the crew noted heavy rainfall in thunderstorms on the weather avoidance radar and received clearance to avoid this area. At 5:12 pm, the aircraft entered a tornado, which caused the right wing to separate from the plane. All 17 occupants of the aircraft perished in the accident.

1984 - The temperature at Honolulu, Hawaii, reached 94 degrees to establish an all-time record at that location. (The Weather Channel)

1985 - A tropical wave, later to become Tropical Storm Isabel, struck Puerto Rico. As much as 24 inches of rain fell in 24 hours, and the severe flooding and numerous landslides resulting from the rain claimed about 180 lives. (Storm Data)

1987 - The western U.S. continued to sizzle. Afternoon highs of 85 degrees at Astoria OR, 101 degrees at Tucson AZ, and 102 degrees at Sacramento CA, equalled October records. It marked the fourth time in the month that Sacramento tied their record for October. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Cool Canadian air prevailed across the central and eastern U.S. Toledo OH reported a record low of 27 degrees. Limestone ME received an inch of snow. Warm weather continued in the western U.S. Boise ID reported a record high of 87 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Temperatures soared into the 90s across southern Texas. Afternoon highs of 93 degrees at Houston, and 96 degrees at Austin and Corpus Christi, were records for the date. Beeville was the hot spot in the nation with an afternoon high of 101 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

2010: A major severe weather event struck northern Arizona with at least 8 confirmed tornadoes. This event will go down in history as the most tornadoes to strike Arizona in a single day. An EF2 tornado was on the ground for 34 miles, ranking as the longest tracked tornado in Arizona history.

The Livestream logo features a red and white stylized 'L' icon to the left of the word 'livestream' in a lowercase, sans-serif font.








**Volleyball Tonight at 7:15 p.m.  
Clark/Willow Lake vs. Groton**

**Football Friday in Wagner, 7 p.m.**

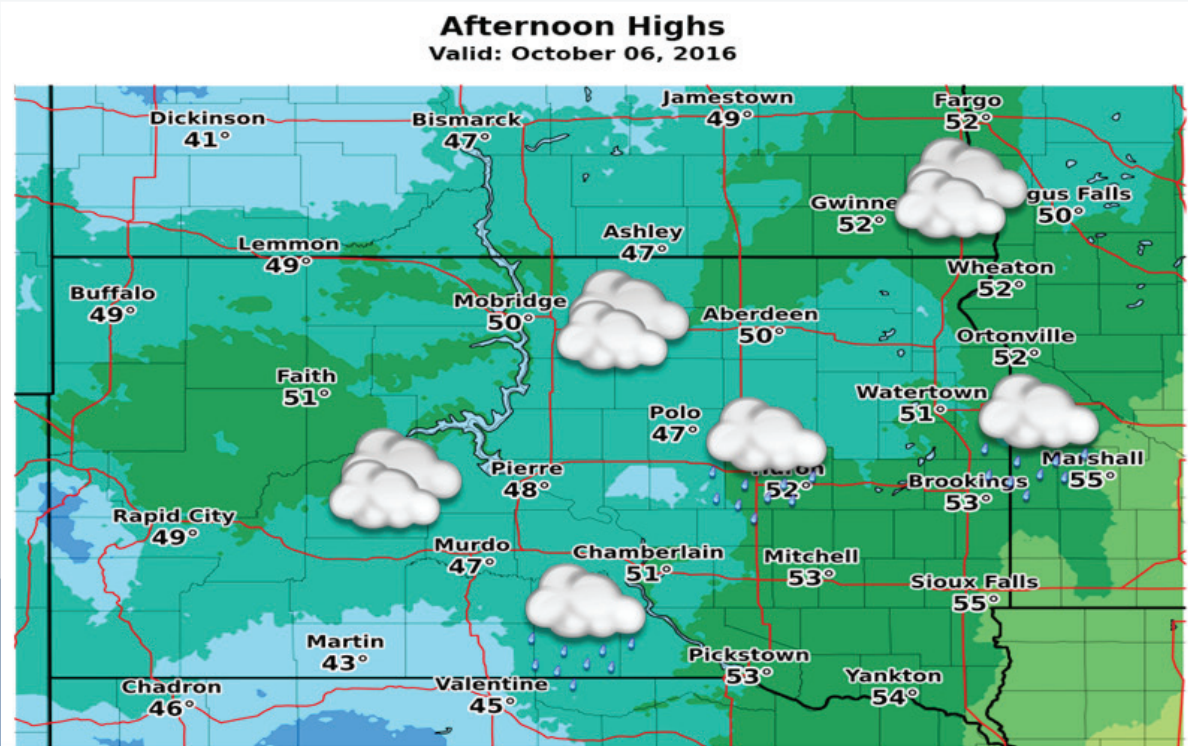
**gdilive.com**

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Today	Tonight	Friday	Friday Night	Saturday	Saturday Night	Sunday
						
Patchy Frost then Slight Chance Rain	Slight Chance Rain then Frost	Frost then Sunny	Frost	Frost then Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Sunny
High: 50 °F	Low: 30 °F	High: 51 °F	Low: 29 °F	High: 54 °F	Low: 33 °F	High: 67 °F

## Cool Temperatures – Light Rain Today



## Freezing Temperatures Overnight

National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD



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



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen

Updated: 10/6/2016 5:22 AM Central

Published on: 10/06/2016 at 5:26AM

Cold air will remain in place today while a system slides across south central and south east South Dakota today, and into western Minnesota this evening. This system will bring light rain to parts of the forecast area. Sub-freezing temperatures are expected again tonight and for Friday night.



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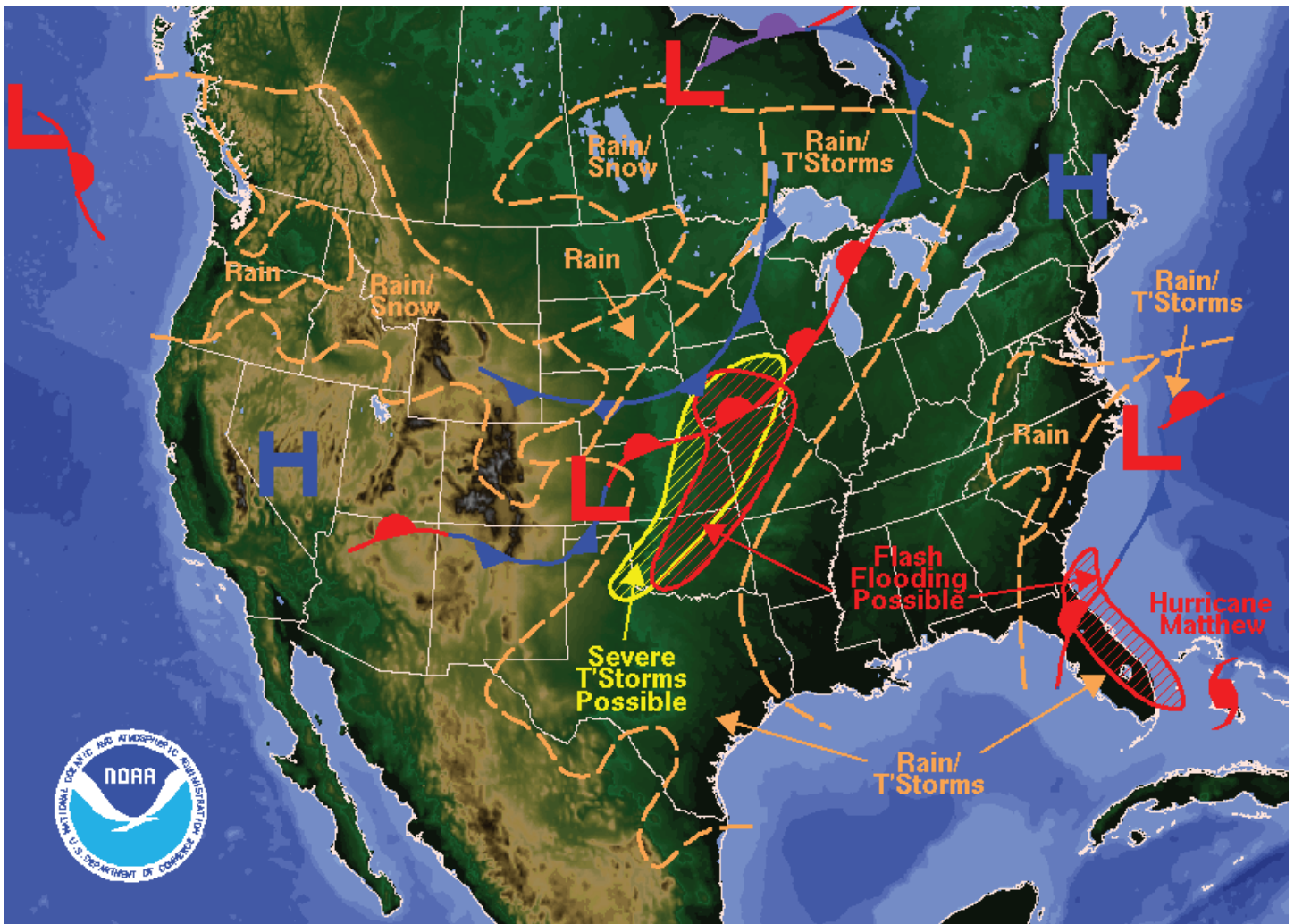
## Yesterday's Weather

**High Outside Temp: 61.4 F at 4:07 PM**  
**Low Outside Temp: 39.0 F at 11:30 PM**  
**High Gust: 38.0 Mph at 1:56 PM**

Precip: 0.00

## Today's Info

**Record High: 91° in 1961**  
**Record Low: 19° in 2012**  
**Average High: 63°F**  
**Average Low: 37°F**  
**Average Precip in Oct.: 0.47**  
**Precip to date in Oct.: 0.63**  
**Average Precip to date: 18.95**  
**Precip Year to Date: 13.83**  
**Sunset Tonight: 7:03 p.m.**  
**Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:40 a.m.**



Weather Forecast for Thu, Oct 06, 2016, issued 4:28 AM EDT  
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center  
Prepared by McCreynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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## GET UP AND GO ON

Little Lola was having a hard time learning to skate. Every time she got up and started to skate, she fell down. The bruises were multiplying and covering all of the available space on her knees and elbows.

A neighbor passing by watched her try and try again. Finally he approached her and asked, "Why don't you give up?"

"Because," she cried with tears streaming down her face, "my father didn't give me these skates to give up with but to go on with."

Our Lord gives us His gracious favor and wonder working power to "go on with..." A good example of this is the Apostle Paul. God did not remove His affliction. He promised, however, to demonstrate His grace and power in and through him at all times.

God wants to display His grace and power in our lives often through what we believe to be our weaknesses. He wants to give us courage and hope, strength and victory. When we willingly admit our weaknesses and limitations we are forced to depend upon God to be effective and successful. Surrendering to Him when we need His help forces us to admit our inabilities and His abilities. Admitting our limitations enables us to develop our Christ-dependence, deepen our respect for God's presence and power in our lives and will encourage us to develop a deeper sense of worship.

Prayer: Father, we truly need Your involvement in our lives. When we are weak - give us Your strength, when we are down - raise us with Your power. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: 2 Corinthians 12:9-10 But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."...That is why, for Christ sake, I delight in weakness, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak then I am strong.



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605/397-2365**

## **\$35 million condo proposal in Deadwood draws opposition**

DEADWOOD, S.D. (AP) — A popular tourist destination in Deadwood is planning a \$35 million condominium-hotel expansion, but some residents oppose the project.

The Chalets at Deadwood Mountain Grand proposal calls for 103 one- and two-bedroom units on a steep hillside known as McGovern Hill. Condo owners would be entitled to three weeks of occupancy during the year, with the units rented out the other weeks.

Deadwood Mountain Grand CEO Robert Ekman says the condos could attract a high-profile clientele not currently seen in the Old West gambling town.

Some residents think the project will mar the hillside view, and that absentee condo-owners won't contribute anything to the community.

Deadwood was born in a gold rush and is now known as a destination for 2 million gamblers and other tourists each year.

## **South Dakota hunting groups cry foul on waterfowl permits**

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Two South Dakota hunting groups want to keep out-of-state waterfowl hunters out of north central South Dakota.

The South Dakota Wildlife Federation and the South Dakota Waterfowl Association are asking the Game, Fish and Parks Commission to rescind nonresident waterfowl licenses available for use outside of a five-county Missouri River unit.

The petition comes after the Legislature this year added five north central counties to the list of those in which 1,500 three-day licenses can be used by out-of-state hunters.

The petition also seeks to invalidate 500 licenses for eight northeastern South Dakota counties that the Legislature added in 2002.

The issue of extending waterfowl hunting rights to out-of-staters has been contentious for years. Some hunters see the expansions as illegal and encroaching on the hunting rights of residents.

## **South Dakota Legislature seeking interns for 2017 session**

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Legislature is seeking 22 college students to be legislative interns for the 2017 session.

Applications must be submitted by Oct. 14. The internships are open to college and university students of all majors.

The Legislative Research Council's internship program is meant to give students a better understanding of government and provide assistance to the legislative branch.

Interns will work with lawmakers to help them with bill briefs and constituent services, among other tasks. Students will receive compensation and may earn credit.

Online: [http://www.sdlegislature.gov/Students\\_Page/Intern/](http://www.sdlegislature.gov/Students_Page/Intern/)

## **Warm, dry week helps South Dakota farmers with harvest**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A week of warm, dry weather has helped South Dakota farmers with the harvest.

The Agriculture Department says in its weekly crop report that soybeans made the biggest jump in progress, going from 11 percent harvested and behind the average pace to 39 percent harvested and slightly ahead of the average.

The corn harvest is at 12 percent done, still behind average. The sunflower harvest is just getting un-

derway.

Winter wheat planting in South Dakota has reached 56 percent complete, with 19 percent of the crop emerged.

Pasture and range conditions statewide are rated 37 percent good to excellent. Stock water supplies are 71 percent adequate to surplus.

## **USDA determining if investigation into tiger death warranted**

SPEARFISH, S.D. (AP) — The U.S. Department of Agriculture is determining whether an investigation is warranted into the death of a tiger that bit a western South Dakota wildlife sanctuary director, an agency spokeswoman said Wednesday.

Officials will look into whether any noncompliance with federal law contributed to the incident at Spirit of the Hills Wildlife Sanctuary, where nearly 20 animals have recently been transferred away, said Tanya Espinosa, a spokeswoman for the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

Authorities were alerted late Monday that the tiger was loose. Officials found a staff member bitten several times by the tiger, and a deputy fatally shot the animal to prevent it from escaping, Chief Deputy Paul Hansen of the Lawrence County Sheriff's Office said.

Sanctuary Director Michael Welchynski, who was injured by the tiger, is making a full recovery, according to a Wednesday sanctuary statement. The statement said the tiger, named Boomer, attacked Welchynski during a regular feeding.

"I'm alive," Welchynski told the Black Hills Pioneer newspaper Tuesday from the hospital.

Espinosa said the Department of Agriculture conducted a routine inspection of the sanctuary Sept. 28. Since then, 18 animals have been transferred from the sanctuary to a Colorado facility, said Espinosa, who declined to offer many details but said more information will be available in a later inspection report.

The agency was unhappy with some of the animals' conditions, and the sanctuary thought it was best to relinquish their care to a different facility, sanctuary board president Fred Erdman said.

"Myself, along with probably all the other volunteers that have put their hearts and souls into this environment are all very saddened by what happened," Erdman said.

The tiger that was shot wasn't part of the transfer, Espinosa said.

The Wild Animal Sanctuary of Keenesburg, Colorado, has taken in nine tigers, one lion, one wolf and seven bears from the South Dakota facility, Executive Director Pat Craig said.

Nearly all of the animals were underweight and some had medical issues that had been left untreated, he said.

Three tigers and one bear under the custody of the Ohio Department of Agriculture were among the animals transferred to Colorado. The department was notified of an animal care concern at the facility and immediately took steps to relocate them, agency spokesman Mark Bruce said.

The South Dakota facility was established in 1999 to provide a home for animals from private owners, breeding facilities and the entertainment industry, according to its website. It is open to the public for tours.

Spirit of the Hills warned in the statement that additional exotic animal removals may be coming.

## **Sioux Falls man accused in human trafficking case**

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A Sioux Falls man is accused of arranging for a minor to be transported from Georgia to South Dakota.

The Sioux Falls Police Department says 36-year-old Jonathan Cohen faces felony charges including human trafficking, procuring or promoting prostitution, sexual exploitation of a minor and solicitation of a minor.

Sioux Falls police say an investigation came after the department received a 911 call Tuesday from Cohen's residence. It wasn't immediately clear if Cohen has an attorney.

Cohen is a doctor in Sioux Falls.

## Authorities identify man dead after crash east of Freeman

FREEMAN, S.D. (AP) — Authorities have identified a 50-year-old man who died after a one-vehicle crash near Freeman.

The South Dakota Highway Patrol says Todd Hawke of Marion died from injuries after the pickup truck he was driving crashed late Monday.

Authorities say Hawke wasn't wearing a seatbelt. The Highway Patrol is investigating the crash.

## Judges ask tough questions in Dakota Access pipeline appeal

By JESSICA GRESKO, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A federal appeals court panel had tough questions Wednesday for opponents of the \$3.8 billion, four-state Dakota Access oil pipeline who are arguing to keep a temporary stop of construction in place for a small stretch in North Dakota.

A three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit already had stopped work for 20 miles on either side of the Missouri River at Lake Oahe while The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe appeals a lower-court ruling from September that let work on the entire pipeline go forward.

Both the U.S. government and the pipeline's backers oppose the tribe's request for a continuation of the work stoppage; the pipeline is otherwise nearly complete. However, government agencies said last month they won't allow construction on government land bordering or under Lake Oahe until they re-evaluates their own decision-making surrounding the pipeline, which is expected to take weeks.

The tribe says the pipeline impacts sites of historic, religious and cultural significance and threatens the water supply for its reservation and millions of people downstream. Its fight has spurred scores of people to join a protest encampment in southern North Dakota that's on government land, which has been called the largest gathering of Native American tribes in a century. Protesters have said they won't leave until the pipeline is defeated and plan to stay into the winter.

The panel had a range of questions Wednesday for government, pipeline and tribal lawyers.

Judge Cornelia T.L. Pillard wanted clearer answers about the required consultation the government did with the tribe as well as the boundaries of where the tribe wants work stopped.

"If we're going to issue an injunction we need to say where it stops," said Pillard, who told the tribe's lawyer she was "flummoxed" trying to understand his argument.

Judge Janice Rogers Brown suggested the tribe should have filed its underlying lawsuit before July.

Judge Thomas B. Griffith questioned why the pipeline company wouldn't halt work near the lake before seeing whether they get the government's permission to continue construction on government land bordering and under the lake.

"It looks like you're forcing their hand," Griffith said.

Pipeline lawyer Miguel Estrada said the company had been told obtaining such permission was a formality. Griffith responded: "It's not a formality now, is it?"

Estrada also said his clients "went the extra mile" to accommodate tribal concerns.

The judges didn't say when they'd rule.

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Follow Jessica Gresko on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/jessicagresko>. Her work can be found at <http://bigstory.ap.org/content/jessica-gresko>.

## South Dakota Supreme Court weighs hospital fraud cases

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — Attorneys for two South Dakota hospitals and several doctors argue that hospitals shouldn't have to turn over documents related to doctor performance even when there's evidence they committed fraud against patients.

The Argus Leader (<http://argusne.ws/2dsipnJ>) reported that the case under review by the state Supreme Court is tied to that of a spine surgeon accused of performing dozens of unnecessary surgeries on unsuspecting patients.

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Under a South Dakota law, the results of medical peer reviews, in which physicians are evaluated by one another, are shielded from being used in legal proceedings against doctors, including malpractice cases.

Over 30 lawsuits were filed against spine surgeon Dr. Allen Sossan, who is accused of killing and injuring patients in Yankton between 2008 and 2012.

Prior to becoming a spine surgeon, Sossan was a convicted felon, who changed his name to avoid association with his conviction. As more lawsuits accrued against the spine surgeon, he fled the U.S. for his native Iran.

Later Sossen, was charged by a grand jury with lying on his application to get a South Dakota medical license.

Circuit Court Judge Bruce Anderson, who is overseeing the lawsuits against Sossan, ruled last year that plaintiffs suing the doctors and hospitals should have access to certain materials used by hospital peer review committees to review physicians' performance. He said the law that protects the disclosure of those materials can be breached under a crime-fraud exception.

Leslie Brueckner, an attorney for patients in the case, said patients would be deprived of due process if they could not acquire access to the documents related to physician performance.

"You have to show what the hospitals knew and when they knew it," she said.

However, attorneys Ed Evans and Roger Sudbeck, who represent the hospitals and physicians involved in the case, argued that if a crime-fraud exemption was intended by Legislature, it would have been stated in the law.

"The language is absolute in its terms," said Ed Evans

A decision could come later this fall.

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Information from: Argus Leader, <http://www.argusleader.com>

## Hay donated for starving wild horses on South Dakota ranch

LANTRY, S.D. (AP) — Hay donations are showing up at a South Dakota ranch where a former employee says wild horses are dying of starvation.

The Rapid City Journal reports (<http://bit.ly/2depW6y>) that the donations to the International Society for the Protection of Mustangs and Burros ranch near Lantry are coming from other wild horse organizations.

Former ranch employee Colleen Burns estimates more than 30 horses have died since June. The Dewey County Sheriff's Office and the state Animal Industry Board have investigated and turned over their findings to local prosecutors for review.

Society President Karen Sussman has said Burns is a disgruntled employee.

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Information from: Rapid City Journal, <http://www.rapidcityjournal.com>

## School of Mines eyeing \$20 million research facility

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota School of Mines & Technology has unveiled a plan for a \$20 million research facility on the site of a former hotel in downtown Rapid City.

The proposal is part of a \$113 million package of projects that four state colleges have offered to expand research on South Dakota campuses. Mines President Heather Wilson shared the proposal with the state Board of Regents on Tuesday, saying the school faces a shortage of space for future growth.

"I think that we can do more, but we can't do more in the facilities that we're begging, borrowing and renting from other people," she said.

Wilson told the Rapid City Journal (<http://bit.ly/2dEdoZn>) that there's no money yet for the proposed South Dakota Institute for Advanced Materials and Manufacturing, but that officials are drawing up a proposal for regents and state lawmakers.

The proposed institute could create hundreds of jobs for Mines students, help form more startup companies and lead to millions of dollars' worth of new research, according to Wilson.

"I think it can have a transformative effect on South Dakota," she said.

If funding is approved, a program plan and designs could be drawn up between June and December 2017. Construction likely would begin in the spring of 2018 and could wrap up in fall 2019.

Information from: Rapid City Journal, <http://www.rapidcityjournal.com>

## **The Latest: UN Syria envoy: Some 8,000 rebels left in Aleppo**

BEIRUT (AP) — The Latest on developments in Syria (all times local):

2:30 p.m.

The U.N. envoy for Syria says only an estimated 8,000 rebel fighters are holed up in the eastern parts of Aleppo amid a government offensive in this northern Syrian city — and that no more than 900 insurgents there are from the al-Qaida affiliate in Syria.

Staffan de Mistura's remarks underscore the brutality of the fighting in Aleppo, where a besieged population of 275,000 in the eastern, rebel-held part of the city, is in desperate need of aid.

At a press conference in Geneva, de Mistura sharply revised downward his earlier estimate announced at the U.N. Security Council last month that more than half of all fighters in the northern city were from the al-Qaida-linked Fatah al-Sham Front, formerly known as the Nusra Front.

The Russian-backed Syrian offensive on rebel-held parts of Aleppo has in part spurred the United States to suspend its cooperation with Russia in trying to achieve a cease-fire in Syria.

In a BBC interview last week, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said that 50 percent of opposition fighters in Aleppo were from Nusra Front, "as confirmed by the United Nations," according to a transcript posted on Russian diplomatic websites.

1:30 p.m.

Syria's President Bashar Assad has denied reports that his government is targeting hospitals and civilian infrastructure.

Syrian opposition activists and international relief agencies have said Syrian and Russian warplanes have been hitting hospitals and infrastructure in the northern city of Aleppo, which has been the epicenter of the Syrian civil war in recent months.

Assad told Denmark's TV2 station that "to say that this is our aim as a government, (that) we give the orders to destroy hospitals or schools or to kill civilians, this is against our interest."

Still, Assad said mistakes are sometimes committed by individuals in any war. Excerpts from the interview were released by Assad's office on Thursday. A full version is to be aired later.

Assad says that had his government been "committing all these atrocities," he could not have remained president.

12:45 p.m.

The Russian defense minister says the military will rely on its experience in the Syrian conflict to further improve its weapons.

Sergei Shoigu said on Thursday that new Russian weapons have "shown their reliability and efficiency" in Syria. The military has used the campaign to test some of its new weapons for the first time in combat.

Shoigu particularly mentioned the X-101 cruise missiles, which have been launched by Russian strategic bombers at targets in Syria, as well as long-range cruise missiles which have been fired by Russian surface ships and submarines.

Moscow has conducted its air campaign in Syria since Sept. 30 2015, turning the tide of war and helping Syrian President Bashar Assad's military win some key ground.

11 a.m.

The Islamic State group has claimed responsibility for a deadly bombing in a northwestern Syrian village that killed at least 20 people, including many Turkey-backed opposition fighters.

The IS-linked Aamaq news agency says a suicide car bomber struck a convoy of rebels on the Syrian

side of a border crossing point in the village of Atmeh.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the blast killed at least 20 people and wounded dozens. An activist collective in Idlib province known as Ariha Today put the death toll at 24.

10:30 a.m.

Syrian activists have raised the death toll from an explosion in a northwestern village near the border with Turkey to at least 20 killed, including Turkey-backed rebels.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights says the blast in Atmeh on Thursday morning was either caused by a suicide bomber or a remotely detonated bomb. Another group, the Local Coordination Committees, says the blast was caused by a bag filled with explosives that went off on the Syrian side of a border crossing.

An activist collective in Idlib province known as Ariha Today says the blast killed 24.

The Observatory says the killed rebels have been fighting along with Turkish forces against the Islamic State group since August.

No one claimed responsibility for the attack.

## Explosion in Syria near Turkey border kills at least 29

By **BASSEM MROUE, Associated Press**

BEIRUT (AP) — An explosion in a village in northwestern Syria near the border with Turkey killed at least 29 people on Thursday, including several Turkey-backed opposition fighters, Syrian activists said. The attack was quickly claimed by the Islamic State group.

The deadly bombing underscored the complex layers of the Syrian conflict, where a civil war between Syrian President Bashar Assad's forces and the rebels trying to oust him is taking place alongside a militant insurgency and an international war against the Islamic State group.

Meanwhile, activists in the northern city of Aleppo said it was calmer on Thursday after Syria's military command announced the night before it would scale back bombardment of the contested city to allow civilians to leave besieged rebel-held neighborhoods.

"There were shellings and air raids, but it was less than in previous days," said activist Bahaa al-Halaby, speaking from Aleppo province near the city.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said that although airstrikes have almost stopped on the besieged eastern rebel-held neighborhoods of the city, government forces were pushing ahead in their ground offensive. The Observatory and state media said government forces advanced in Aleppo's northern neighborhood of Bustan al-Basha where troops captured a sports complex and a nearby housing compound.

Meanwhile, Assad denied reports that his government is targeting hospitals and civilian infrastructure. Syrian opposition activists and international relief agencies have said Syrian and Russian warplanes have been hitting hospitals and infrastructure in Aleppo, which has been the epicenter of the Syrian civil war in recent months.

Assad told Denmark's TV2 station that "to say that this is our aim as a government, (that) we give the orders to destroy hospitals or schools or to kill civilians, this is against our interest."

Still, Assad said mistakes are sometimes committed by individuals in any war. Excerpts from the interview were released by Assad's office on Thursday while a full version is to be aired later.

Assad also said that, had his government been "committing all these atrocities," he could not have remained president.

In the explosion in the village of Atmeh at the Turkish border, activists said the blast occurred as opposition fighters gathered near a small restaurant in the area. It also happened during an exchange of forces going to Syria and some planning to return to Turkey, according to Rami Abdurrahman of the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

The Observatory said the blast in Atmeh was caused by a suicide bomber wearing an explosive belt.



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The activist group, which tracks the conflict through a network of activists on the ground, said that along with 29 killed, many others were wounded in the explosion.

Another group, the Local Coordination Committees, said the blast was caused by a bag filled with explosives that went off on the Syrian side of a border crossing, killing 35 people including two senior judicial officials from the opposition.

The Observatory said the dead were Turkish-backed opposition fighters who have been fighting along with Turkish groups against the Islamic State group since August.

An amateur video posted online shows about 18 dead men lying on the floor outside what appears to be a clinic. Some of the men are in military uniforms. The video appears genuine and corresponds to other AP reporting of events depicted.

In the Islamic State group's claim, the IS-linked Aamaq news agency said a suicide car bomber struck a convoy of rebels on the Syrian side of a border crossing point in Atmeh.

Turkish Deputy Prime Minister Numan Kurtulmus described the blast as an "inhuman attack," adding that "those who perpetrated this committed a crime against humanity."

Turkish state-run Anadolu Agency said the attack occurred during a "change of guard" by the Turkish-backed forces at a refugee settlement.

Turkey sent tanks into Syria on Aug. 24 as part of the so-called Euphrates Shield operation aimed at ousting Islamic State fighters and halting an advance by Syrian Kurdish forces, which Ankara sees as allies of Turkey's own outlawed Kurdish militia that has been waging a 30-year insurgency inside Turkey.

In mid August, IS claimed responsibility for a suicide bombing that struck a bus transporting rebels through the Atmeh border crossing between Syria's opposition-held Idlib province and Turkey, killing more than 30 fighters.

The Atmeh border post is one of several crossings Syrian rebels use to bring in fighters and supplies.

Associated Press writer Suzan Fraser contributed to this report from Ankara, Turkey.

## Bumgarner, Gillaspie lead Giants over Mets 3-0; Cubs next

By MIKE FITZPATRICK, AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Nobody takes to October like Madison Bumgarner and the San Francisco Giants.

Bumgarner pitched a four-hitter for his latest postseason gem, outlasting Noah Syndergaard in a classic duel between aces, and injury substitute Conor Gillaspie hit a three-run homer in the ninth inning that sent San Francisco to a 3-0 victory over the New York Mets in the NL wild-card game Wednesday night.

"This game was everything we thought. Two really outstanding pitchers going at it," Giants manager Bruce Bochy said. "One of the best postseason games I've been a part of."

Gillaspie connected off All-Star closer Jeurys Familia, who led the majors this year with a club-record 51 saves while allowing only one home run.

With their ninth consecutive victory when facing postseason elimination, Bochy and the Giants advanced to play the NL Central champion Cubs in a best-of-five Division Series. Game 1 is Friday night at venerable Wrigley Field in Chicago.

"I like our chances," Bumgarner said.

The good news for the Cubs as they attempt to end a championship drought that dates to 1908 is this: Bumgarner probably won't start until Game 3 — and would only be available once on full rest.

The big left-hander has been untouchable under pressure.

"It's unbelievable what he's done," Gillaspie said.

The last time Bumgarner was on the mound in the postseason, he saved Game 7 of the 2014 World Series in Kansas City with five scoreless innings on two days' rest to cap one of the greatest playoff performances in baseball history.

Including his four-hit shutout at Pittsburgh in the 2014 wild-card game, he has tossed 23 straight scoreless innings in winner-take-all games — all on the road.

Sandy Koufax. Bob Gibson. Whitey Ford — Bumgarner ranks right up there with any of 'em when it

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comes to October clutch.

"He's one of the game's great big-game pitchers," Mets manager Terry Collins said.

Asked how he wants to be remembered, Bumgarner said: "I'm a winner. That's all anybody wants to be."

After having the best record in the majors at the All-Star break, San Francisco was 26-42 in the second half before finishing with a four-game winning streak to hold off St. Louis by one game for the final NL playoff spot.

Now, the Giants have a chance to extend their pattern of even-year titles after winning World Series crowns in 2010, '12 and '14.

In a matchup between the past two NL champions, Syndergaard struck out 10 in seven innings of two-hit ball. Familia entered in the ninth and Brandon Crawford lined a leadoff double. Angel Pagan struck out after failing to get a bunt down, and Joe Panik walked.

Gillaspie, starting at third base for injured All-Star Eduardo Nunez and playing his first postseason game, drove a 96 mph pitch to right field and pumped his arm as he rounded first.

"I don't know what I was thinking. Normally I'm not a fired-up guy. I let some frustration out from the first six innings with that swing," said Gillaspie, who was 7 for 14 with five RBIs in his final five games of the regular season.

Before he connected, the Giants had a pinch-hitter on deck to bat for Bumgarner.

When the ball cleared the fence, it stunned a revved-up, orange towel-waving crowd of 44,747 that sank into its Citi Field seats with a collective groan.

"I missed the location," Familia said simply.

With the Giants finally ahead, Bochy sent Bumgarner back out. He closed with a 1-2-3 ninth against the 3-4-5 hitters and smacked his glove in triumph when rookie T.J. Rivera flied out to end it.

San Francisco players hugged each other behind the mound and headed for the clubhouse to celebrate with bubbly, cheered by a happy contingent of Giants fans behind their dugout.

"Bum just did his thing," Bochy said. "We won the game because of him."

With his sizzling fastball clocking 99 mph and long, blond locks dangling down his neck, Syndergaard held San Francisco hitless until Denard Span's two-out single in the sixth.

Mets center fielder Curtis Granderson kept the game scoreless with a courageous grab of Brandon Belt's deep drive, crashing hard with his left shoulder into the padded fence 408 feet from home plate and tumbling to the warning track.

Syndergaard simply overpowered the Giants at times, but Bumgarner kept the Mets off balance by mixing pinpoint pitches and changing speeds from around 93 mph down to 77 mph.

New York came out swinging after Collins said before the game his hitters had seen enough video of Bumgarner over the past two days to know he would challenge them. But the aggressive approach played right into the hands of Bumgarner and the Giants, who never had to use a shaky bullpen that struggled badly down the stretch.

The big lefty was able to get quick outs early and went the distance on 119 pitches, striking out six and walking two — one intentional. He needed only seven pitches to get through each of the first three innings, with the help of a double play.

"I really thought, 'Hey look, if we can get to him early,'" Collins said. "We probably need to do a little better job of working the count."

## TRAINER'S ROOM

Giants: Nunez (strained right hamstring) was left off the wild-card roster. An AL All-Star this season with Minnesota, he was acquired in a July 28 trade but hasn't played since Sept. 25.

Mets: INF Wilmer Flores (wrist) was missed, particularly because of his prodigious numbers against left-handed pitching. Flores has been sidelined since Sept. 10 after getting hurt in a home-plate collision. Surgery is planned this week to remove the hamate bone in his right wrist, and Flores is expected to be healthy for spring training next year.

## THEIR TIME OF YEAR

The Giants have outscored opponents 50-11 in their last nine postseason elimination games. They have

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won all 11 postseason rounds under Bochy, matching manager Joe Torre and the 1998-2001 New York Yankees for the longest streak in major league history.

## FAMILY TIES

New York had a runner on second when Bumgarner caught Asdrubal Cabrera's not-so-hard liner to end the eighth inning. Pumped up by the play, he tossed the ball deep into the stands as he approached the dugout. "Just to be able to snag that thing was pretty big for us," Bumgarner said. "It's OK to say it now since nobody knows, but that was our family section, so just threw the ball there."

## HEAT INDEX

Syndergaard fired 42 pitches at least 98 mph — more than the Phillies (41) and Indians (35) threw all year, according to a tweet from Inside Edge.

## UP NEXT

Giants: RHP Johnny Cueto figures to start the Division Series opener against LHP Jon Lester. The Cubs had the top record in the majors this year at 103-58.

Mets: Open next season April 3 at home against Atlanta.

## The Latest: Thousands in Florida shelters set up in schools

MIAMI (AP) — The Latest on Hurricane Matthew and Tropical Storm Nicole (all times local):

6:30 a.m.

Officials say some 3,000 people have already checked into shelters in Florida ahead of Hurricane Matthew's approach.

According to the Florida Division of Emergency Management, 48 shelters are already providing refuge for 3,015 people in Florida. Another 13 special needs shelters are already housing 31 people.

The shelters are all in schools in areas where evacuations — either mandatory or voluntary — are underway. The Florida counties include Broward, Miami-Dade, Palm Beach, St. Lucie, Glades, Martin, Duval and Brevard.

Special needs shelters are designed to aid people with disabilities. Shelters are listed at [floridadisaster.org](http://floridadisaster.org).

6:10 a.m.

The murder trial of a man accused of intentionally leaving his toddler son in a hot SUV to die is being put on hold as Hurricane Matthew heads toward the Georgia coast where the man's being prosecuted.

Local news organizations report a judge said the trial of Justin Ross Harris would be in recess Thursday and Friday and resume Monday.

Prosecutors have said Harris intentionally killed his 22-month-old son, Cooper, by leaving him for hours in a vehicle parked outside the father's workplace in Cobb County near Atlanta. Cooper's lawyers say the death was accidental.

The trial was moved to Brunswick on the coast because of pretrial publicity.

Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal on Wednesday urged residents of several coastal counties, including the one where Brunswick is located, to evacuate.

5:10 a.m.

Forecasters say Hurricane Matthew has gained new muscle over the Bahamas and they are also expanding the hurricane warning area further up the Southeast Atlantic seacoast from Florida into Georgia.

The U.S. National Hurricane Center in Miami says Matthew's top sustained winds have risen from 115 mph (185 kph) to 125 mph (205 mph) in just a few hours early Thursday as the storm continues to batter the central Bahamas.

The center says it is extending a hurricane warning area already covering a large swath of Florida's Atlantic coast further northward to Altamaha Sound, Georgia. It also says a newly expanded hurricane watch now extends from the Altamaha Sound up the coast to the South Santee River in South Carolina.

The center added in its 5 a.m. Thursday update that Matthew should gain further in intensity over the

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next day or so and is forecast to become a Category 4 storm as it approaches Florida's Atlantic coast.

Matthew's center is now about 255 miles (410 kilometers) southeast of West Palm Beach, Florida, and moving northwest at 12 mph (19 kph) over the Bahamas.

2 a.m.

Forecasters say Hurricane Matthew is now pounding portions of the Central Bahamas and is expected to strengthen as it approaches Florida.

The U.S. National Hurricane Center in Miami said Matthew remains a powerful Category 3 storm with top sustained winds of 115 mph (185 kph) as of 2 a.m. EDT Thursday. It added that Matthew is expected to intensify over the next day or so and is forecast to again become a dangerous Category 4 hurricane as it nears Florida's Atlantic coast.

Matthew was briefly a very dangerous Category 5 storm on its march across the Caribbean. By early Thursday, Matthew was centered about 295 miles (480 kilometers) southeast of West Palm Beach, Florida. It also was about 100 miles (160 kilometers) south-southeast of Nassau in the Bahamas.

The Miami forecasting center said no changes have been made to the existing hurricane and tropical storm warnings and watches as of 2 a.m. EDT.

## 10 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press

Your daily look at late-breaking news, upcoming events and the stories that will be talked about today:

### 1. SOME NOT HEEDING CALL TO EVACUATE

With Hurricane Matthew bearing down on the southeastern U.S., some residents say the dangers posed by the Category 3 storm and its 125 mph winds are exaggerated if it stays on its current path.

### 2. DAMAGE TO CARIBBEAN NATION STILL MURKY AFTER MATTHEW

Haitian authorities and international aid workers still lack a clear picture of the hurricane's destruction two days after the storm rampaged across the remote southwestern peninsula.

### 3. WHERE TRUMP HAS SHIFTED PRIORITIES

The Republican presidential candidate is now spending millions of dollars on data and digital services in an effort to land donations and win over voters.

### 4. WHAT MAY BE MOTIVATING NORTH KOREA ON NUKES

Experts say Pyongyang wants to have an established nuclear arsenal — or at least be well on the way there — before the next U.S. president crafts his or her North Korea policy.

### 5. ADVICE FOR PARENTS ON BODY IMAGE

Health experts say it's time to make clear to kids that they're more than their looks — even if Trump can get away with degrading comments, particularly about women.

### 6. ONCE LAUDED AS A PEACEMAKER, OBAMA'S TENURE FRAUGHT WITH WAR

Seven years after his Nobel Peace Prize triumph, the U.S. president has proven to be a confounding and contradictory figure on matters of war and peace.

### 7. GOVERNMENT TO PICK PLANS FOR DISPLACED HEALTH LAW CUSTOMERS

The Obama administration is worried that insurers bailing out of the health care law's markets may prompt their customers to drop out, too.

### 8. SHARK HABITAT DISCOVERED OFF LONG ISLAND

Researchers say they've confirmed the first known nursery — and likely birthing site — for great whites in the Northwest Atlantic.

### 9. ACTIVISTS BLAST 'O'REILLY FACTOR' PIECE AS RACIST

The Fox News Channel segment features an interviewer asking people in New York's Chinatown if he was supposed to bow to greet them, if they were selling stolen goods and if they could "take care of North Korea for us."

### 10. 'MADBUM' PITCHES ANOTHER POSTSEASON GEM

Madison Bumgarner tosses a four-hitter and Conor Gillaspie hits a three-run homer in the ninth inning, and San Francisco beat the defending NL champion New York Mets 3-0 in the wild-card game.

## **Allegations jobs smoothed with cash payments at Trump Tower**

**By JAKE PEARSON and JACK GILLUM, Associated Press**

NEW YORK (AP) — Six years after George Gjieli left federal prison, where he'd been sent for trying to break out a triple murderer, Donald Trump gave him a job running Trump Tower, where the billionaire businessman lived and worked.

For a decade, the Albanian immigrant, whom federal prosecutors had described as having "utter disdain for the laws of our country," was the live-in residential superintendent of Trump's most prized Manhattan high-rise. Meanwhile, he was accused in court papers of coordinating a cash-for-jobs racket inside the building, an Associated Press review has found.

Trump's decision to entrust responsibility of his namesake Fifth Avenue skyscraper to Gjieli adds to a growing public accounting of men with questionable backgrounds whom Trump has hired or partnered with. The AP and others have reported they include a Mafia-linked government informant whom Trump named as a senior adviser and a convicted cocaine dealer whom Trump supported in a letter to a federal judge.

Gjieli, who said Trump wrote him a recommendation letter when he left Trump Tower in 2001, denied taking kickbacks including cash in envelopes delivered to his 29th floor office. In an interview, he called the allegations "bulls--t," likely made by Romanian building workers harboring generations-old European ethnic rivalries.

The AP uncovered no evidence that Trump knew of money being paid for jobs. His presidential campaign spokeswoman, Hope Hicks, declined to address whether Trump ever conducted a background check before hiring Gjieli. She said Trump wasn't familiar with the kickback allegations.

"Mr. Trump's management style has led to the creation of one of the great private companies anywhere in the world," she said.

Trump himself has said he cares more about his supervisors' ability to get things done than their tactics or pasts, writing approvingly in his best-selling "Art of the Deal" about a "con man" project manager who likely stole \$50,000 annually from the company, including from his secretaries' funeral fund used to buy flowers.

"Even so, I was probably getting a bargain," Trump wrote, saying the con man — it was not Gjieli — was a good manager.

When Trump hired Gjieli after a face-to-face interview in 1991, the man didn't mention his criminal past and Trump didn't ask him about it, Gjieli said. Records of his conviction were publicly available at the time, and recently reviewed in detail by the AP.

They show that government wiretaps from the 1980s captured Gjieli's efforts to bribe a U.S. Treasury agent with \$100,000 to get a fellow Albanian immigrant serving life terms for triple murder out of a Michigan state prison.

Gjieli told the agent that the imprisoned man "shot the f — k out of them. Boom," using a racial epithet to describe the three black men killed during a 1976 robbery attempt, according to a transcript. Gjieli and two associates were later convicted in the jailbreak plan.

"The fact that (Gjieli and his associates) offered a special agent a bribe lets you know what they think of law enforcement," said Jim Covert, then an Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms agent, according to excerpts from the grand jury testimony from the 1980s. "They just figure they can buy anybody."

Paying kickbacks was also at the center of a wrongful termination lawsuit against Trump and the Local 32BJ labor union, which is associated with the Service Employees International Union, filed in 2004 by a fired elevator operator named Ioan Ghilduta. He alleged Gjieli had forced workers to pay for their positions.

"Sure, all the guys pay the money," Ghilduta said in a 2005 deposition, according to court documents obtained by AP, describing the \$1,000 in cash and a gold crucifix he said he was made to give to his boss in 1994. "It was a common practice when you get the job."

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Ghilduta didn't respond to phone calls, text messages and an in-person visit to his home.

The Local 32BJ union declined to comment for this story. The lawsuit was settled shortly after a judge ruled there were issues of fact a jury should hear. Ghilduta walked away with \$7,500 apiece from Trump and the union, neither of which admitted wrongdoing.

In a close-knit service industry, word of Gjeli's influence spread, drawing in workers like Gabriel Mitrea, who recalled in an interview with the AP taking the elevator up to Gjeli's Trump Tower office in the late 1990s with \$2,000 cash in an envelope to secure a doorman job at a non-Trump-owned building near Central Park.

Internal Trump Tower employee manuals show workers are expected to remain discreet about their duties, and some workers declined to discuss their experiences with the AP because they said they didn't want to get into trouble.

Discretion remains a Trump imperative: Earlier this year he settled a lawsuit against a campaign worker whom the billionaire had sued for \$10 million, claiming he violated a non-disclosure agreement.

Still, some workers, like Cornel Nedelcu, spoke glowingly about Trump and recalled receiving gifts from him, such as pairs of used Gucci shoes and trousers.

Nedelcu was named in a deposition as having known about kickbacks. He denied to the AP that he paid for his job but acknowledged that "others may have."

Ilie Malancea did pay, according to his family. His wife recalled that, in the early 1990s, they had to purchase a gold chain that cost between \$500 and \$1,000 as a mandatory "gift" for Gjeli.

For Malancea, who worked at Trump Tower for two decades, that payment foreshadowed further troubling interactions with his bosses, including Gjeli's successor, according to journal entries provided to the AP.

In one case, Malancea raised concerns of a faulty elevator and wrote he was lambasted for suggesting to a resident it was unsafe rather than merely out of order. In another, he complained his pay was withheld after coming late from a doctor's appointment following heart surgery.

He wrote in an undated journal entry that a supervisor was hostile "towards me (without apparent reason) lately using threats of being fired, choice words, constantly accusing me of breaking the rules, not being a team player?!?, being late etc."

"Gjeli had a criminal past," said Jennie Malancea, 27, the daughter of the elevator operator, who is now deceased. "That's a pretty big deal for someone that you're hiring, and is hiring other people."

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Associated Press researchers Jennifer Farrar in New York and Monika Mathur in Washington, and AP writer Alison Mutler in Bucharest, Romania, contributed to this report.

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Read related documents at <http://apne.ws/2bBtfJo> .

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Follow on Twitter: Jake Pearson at <https://twitter.com/JakePearsonAP> and Jack Gillum at <https://twitter.com/jackgillum>

## Advice for parents on body image amid 2016 campaign insults

By LAURAN NEERGAARD, AP Medical Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Even if your daughters don't pay much attention to politics, they'd be hard-pressed to have missed Donald Trump's attack of a former Miss Universe's weight or comments about a 400-pound hacker. It resonated with a 15-year-old who said this week the words damage girls' body image and asked Hillary Clinton how to help.

And it resonates with adolescent and mental health experts who say it's time to make clear to kids that they're more than their looks — even if a presidential candidate can get away with publicly degrading comments.

Girls are particularly at risk for having a distorted body image that can lead to eating disorders, regard-

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less of their weight.

"For them to have that be reinforced by a presidential candidate, it really sets us back generations," said Dr. Jane Swedler, chief of adolescent medicine at Winthrop University Hospital in Mineola, New York.

"We can't tell the kids just to turn him off, because that's not the answer," added mental health expert Linda Lucker Leibowitz of the University of Pennsylvania. A longtime school counselor, she is now associate director of school and mental health counseling at Penn's Graduate School of Education — and says parents, teachers and counselors alike need to talk with children of all ages about this kind of weight bullying.

## WORDS MATTER

Trump's words are what experts call body shaming. The latest back-and-forth began in the presidential debate, when Clinton criticized Trump for calling a then-Miss Universe "Miss Piggy" two decades earlier. He didn't deny that, and the next morning compounded the insult by saying on TV that the beauty queen had gained weight and "it was a real problem."

Monday, during a town hall meeting with Clinton, 15-year-old Brennan Leach said body image was a major issue for girls her age, adding, "I see with my own eyes the damage Donald Trump does when he talks about women and how they look."

Clinton praised the teen for asking how to help and said, "We need to laugh at it. We need to refute it. We need to ignore it. And we need to stand up to it."

Leibowitz said kids mimic what they hear from a celebrity like Trump.

## IT'S NOT JUST TRUMP

Society bombards girls and women with an unrealistic idea of beauty — just think of all the magazine covers with skinny yet buxom models in a nation of widening waistlines.

Even little girls need to be told that "most of these pictures are not real. They're airbrushed, they're Photoshopped," Swedler said.

Parents sometimes unconsciously reinforce the message, she said, if they focus on pounds and dieting rather than on teaching children to eat nutritiously and exercise to be healthy — not to be skinny.

## GOOD BODY IMAGE IS IMPORTANT FOR HEALTH

Just last month, the American Academy of Pediatrics released new guidelines addressing how to prevent both obesity and eating disorders.

Childhood and teen obesity is a serious problem, associated with depression and poor self-esteem as well as later-in-life disease. Eating disorders, while not nearly as common, also are a serious problem — and most teens who develop one didn't start out obese. Instead, the AAP report said often they started out misinterpreting those prevention messages about healthy eating, eliminating foods and calories they don't need to.

Leibowitz, the counselor, would see girls as early as middle school skipping lunch, or wearing baggy clothes to hide their shape.

And while body image problems and eating disorders tend to affect mostly girls, Swedler cautioned it sometimes is a problem for boys, too.

## WHAT'S THE ADVICE?

Parents, ask kids what they think about the insults being hurled around, as an opening to a conversation about body image.

"I would bring it up myself: 'The words that I heard today from Donald Trump really hurt me. What do you think about them?'" is Leibowitz's conversation starter.

Swedler said parents must make girls aware that their physical image doesn't reflect who they are or their worth. Sure, tell them they're pretty but also say they're an amazing artist or a great student, "something about who they are and their brains, and not just about their pigtails," she said. If a weight concern comes up, you might ask your daughter to start walking with you and then have her list three things that are great about herself.

The American Academy of Pediatrics' report says to discourage child dieting, skipping meals or using diet pills. Instead, parents and doctors should encourage more family meals together, promote a positive

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body image and avoid talking about weight in favor of promoting a balanced diet and exercise for fitness.

Associated Press writer Laurie Kellman contributed to this report.

## Haiti starting to gauge full damage from Matthew's rampage

By **PIERRE RICHARD LUXAMA** and **DAVID McFADDEN**, Associated Press Writers

LES CAYES, Haiti (AP) — Two days after Hurricane Matthew rampaged across Haiti's remote southwestern peninsula with roaring winds and flooding rains, local authorities and international aid workers still lack a clear picture of the storm's destruction.

But as the weather began calming and a way was found around a key bridge that was washed away, convoys and helicopters have begun venturing to marooned corners to assess the damage and determine how to help thousands of people who lost homes, livestock and crops.

At least 16 deaths in the Caribbean have been blamed on the storm. The death toll in Haiti alone was raised to 10 by the country's civil protection agency Wednesday evening, but the number was expected to tick upward as more hard-hit rural areas are reached Thursday and people tell their stories.

In Aquin, a south coast town outside the battered city of Les Cayes, people trudged through the mud around the wreckage of clapboard houses and tiny shops.

Cenita Leconte was one of many coastal residents who initially ignored official calls to evacuate vulnerable shacks before Matthew roared ashore at dawn Tuesday as a Category 4 hurricane. The 75-year-old is thankful she finally complied and made it through the terrifying ordeal with her life.

"We've lost everything we own. But it would have been our fault if we stayed here and died," she told The Associated Press as neighbors poked through wreckage hoping to find at least some of their meager possessions.

Marie Alta Jean-Baptiste, head of the civil protection agency, said authorities were starting to get a better view of the situation in the Grande Anse department, where the storm made roads impassable and knocked out communications.

"We do know there's a lot of damage in the Grand Anse, and we also know human life has been lost there," Jean-Baptiste said, adding that the official death toll did not yet include reports from that severely raked area.

Civil aviation authorities reported counting 3,214 destroyed homes along the southern peninsula, where many families live in shacks with sheet metal roofs and don't always have the resources to escape harm's way.

The government has estimated at least 350,000 people need some kind of assistance after the disaster, which U.N. Deputy Special Representative for Haiti Mourad Wahba has called the country's worst humanitarian crisis since the devastating earthquake of 2010.

International aid groups are already appealing for donations to sustain a lengthy recovery effort in Haiti, the hemisphere's least developed and most aid-dependent nation.

In coming days, U.S. military personnel equipped with nine helicopters were expected to start arriving in the capital to help deliver food and water to hard-hit areas.

Jean-Michel Vigreux, the country director in Haiti for the non-profit group CARE, said the lack of communication with people in the Grande Anse region was deeply worrisome.

"We don't know the exact impact yet. We currently aren't able to communicate with our team in one region, Grande Anse. It is very scary," he said.

As answers were slow to come, some Haitians were convinced their troubled homeland was largely spared the kind of human suffering that severe weather has wrought in the past.

"It seems like Haiti dodged a bullet. The news on the radio doesn't seem nearly as bad as it could have been," upholsterer Daniel Wesley said as he walked down a rain-slicked street in downtown Port-au-Prince.

The last Category 4 storm to pound Haiti was Hurricane Flora in 1963, which killed as many as 8,000 people.

In nearby Cuba, Matthew blew across that island's sparsely populated eastern tip, destroying dozens of



homes and damaging hundreds in the island's easternmost city, Baracoa. But nearly 380,000 people were evacuated and strong measures were taken to protect communities and infrastructure, U.N. officials said.

Early Thursday, Matthew was pounding the central the Bahamas on a path forecast to take it close to the U.S. East Coast, where authorities were pursuing large-scale evacuations. Forecasters said Matthew, which had dropped slightly to a dangerous Category 3 storm after crossing land in Haiti and eastern Cuba, was expected to strengthen anew into a potent Category 4 hurricane in the coming day or so as it nears Florida.

Associated Press video journalist Pierre Richard Luxama reported this story in Les Cayes and AP writer David McFadden reported from Port-au-Prince.

## Lab director to AP: Anti-doping discord harms clean sports

By EDDIE PELLIS, AP National Writer

One of the world's leading anti-doping scientists cringes at finger-pointing toward the World Anti-Doping Agency by leaders in international sports and tells The Associated Press that with so much conflict, "the only people who can be happy these days are the dopers and the cheaters."

Christiane Ayotte, the director of the WADA-accredited anti-doping laboratory in Montreal, said in an interview with AP this week that she is wary of the anti-doping summit the International Olympic Committee is holding Saturday — a meeting at which the future of the drug-fighting movement will be discussed. The summit will include only one representative from WADA: President Craig Reedie, who also serves as an IOC member.

"What's the plan? What's the goal? Who is invited and what's going to happen?" Ayotte asks. "What we really need to do is regroup and show a united front."

The summit will include several IOC members, along with presidents of the American, Russian and Chinese Olympic committees and heads of some of the world's biggest Olympic sports. Top on the agenda is a proposal to make the anti-doping system separate from the individual sports federations, most of which operate their own anti-doping programs under WADA guidelines.

A different set of IOC members attended a similar summit that WADA held last month, but they identified different priorities, including bringing more funds into the agency to allow it to bolster its investigative and sanctioning powers, and improving its system for allowing whistleblowers to come forward.

Ayotte said experts in the anti-doping movement are in the best position to make long-term decisions about WADA, which receives half of its funding from the IOC and half from governments around the world. She described the IOC as a group that "gets into testing every two years (at the Olympics), and otherwise, they're not there. For us, this is our everyday life."

WADA has blamed its lack of resources and authority for its slow response to Russian whistleblowers who exposed the widespread, state-sponsored cheating that investigations went on to show had been going on for years in their home country.

That, along with revelations from now-deposed Russian lab director Grigory Rodchenkov about a government-backed scheme that undermined testing at the Sochi Olympics, led to investigations of Russia's sports and anti-doping programs, which eventually led WADA to recommend Russia's ouster from the Rio de Janeiro Olympics. IOC president Thomas Bach led a move against that sanction, instead choosing a path that allowed 271 Russians — about 70 percent of its proposed roster — to compete.

That marked the beginning of a fracture between IOC and WADA leaders, with Bach and others suggesting that WADA's slow action allowed the Russian schemes to flourish.

Most recently, IOC member Juan Antonio Samaranch Jr. told a Spanish newspaper: "We were very critical of WADA and we will continue to be. They are responsible for what goes on inside international laboratories but their labs in Sochi and Moscow were like Sodom and Gomorrah."

Ayotte, who assisted at the Sochi lab both before and during the 2014 Olympics, described a collegial relationship with Rodchenkov, who gave the impression that many of the problems identified at the lab before the Olympics were being corrected.

All the while, however, "they were laughing in our face. We were shocked. We can never pardon or forget what happened there," Ayotte said.

Ayotte isn't alone in decrying the discord between the IOC and WADA. Beckie Scott, who chairs the WADA athlete commission, wrote an op-ed Wednesday noting that, "Almost every day, someone new from the Olympic family takes to the media with the critical claim that the global anti-doping 'system is broken.'"

IOC members Sergei Bubka and Gerardo Werthein have also been critical of WADA in recent weeks.

Ayotte, who is president of a worldwide group of lab directors, said she came from a meeting earlier this week where concern over the IOC undermining of WADA was growing.

"We're very worried about what will come up with regard to the power and the mandate of WADA," she said. "Yes, we need to make some accommodations and some changes, but this is not the time to tear everything down and start again."

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## Government to pick plans for displaced health law customers

By **RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Worried that insurers bailing out of the health law's markets may prompt their customers to drop out, too, the Obama administration plans to steer affected policyholders to remaining insurance companies. But those consumers could get an unwelcome surprise if their new government-recommended plan isn't what they're used to.

The backstop was outlined in an administration document circulating among insurers and state regulators. It also calls for reaching those "discontinued consumers" with a constant stream of reminders as the health law's 2017 sign-up season goes into full swing. Open enrollment for HealthCare.gov starts Nov. 1 and ends Jan. 31. A copy of the strategy was provided to The Associated Press.

The health insurance markets were envisioned as dynamic engines to facilitate private competition, but in many states they have run into problems that could lead to a greater government role.

Some consumer advocates say the administration's latest effort will help people hold on to coverage in a challenging year that will also see sharper premium increases. Insurers worry that government picking plans will sow confusion and may trigger a backlash from customers disappointed with reduced options. The administration says consumers have the last word as far as accepting any "alternate" plan they're offered.

"Many consumers are likely to be wary of information from another insurance company," said Elizabeth Carpenter of the consulting firm Avalere Health. "Some individuals choose a plan based on a name they recognize or reputation. Other patients may also understand that things like benefit design and networks are likely to change, in some cases significantly, from one carrier to another."

The Obama administration said it isn't able to provide an estimate of the number of people who'll get the notices, but independent experts say it could range from several hundred thousand to 1 million or more.

The market churn is due to a combination of big-name insurers leaving because of financial losses and the collapse of nonprofit insurance co-ops. Insurers say customers have turned out to be sicker than expected. Many younger, healthier people have stayed away, even at the risk of fines for being uninsured.

Created by President Barack Obama's health care law, insurance markets like HealthCare.gov provide subsidized private coverage for people who don't have a job-based plan. About 11 million people are currently covered.

The original idea was for the markets to force insurers to offer quality coverage at affordable prices. But many communities, particularly rural areas and small cities, will have just one carrier next year. Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton is calling for a stronger government role through the introduction of a public insurance plan.

With the markets struggling, administration officials worry that insurer exits could complicate their desire to deliver strong sign-up numbers in the president's last year. So they are leaving nothing to chance.

The document, titled "Marketplace Consumer Communications: Discontinued Plans," says affected con-

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sumers may get 20 or more reminder messages between Nov. 21 and Dec. 15, which is the deadline for selecting coverage effective Jan. 1.

The earliest notices will start this month. Around the second week of November, consumers whose insurers are leaving the market will get a notice that HealthCare.gov has matched them to another plan. They could also receive materials from the new insurer, including a welcome kit and a bill.

Christen Linke Young, a senior administration official overseeing the health care markets, stressed that consumers are under no obligation to accept the new plan.

"Under no circumstances is anyone going to be enrolled in a plan or need to pay anything without their consent," she said. "Consumers are getting an option, but they are not getting enrolled into that product without their consent."

Last year, most renewing customers checked their options before paying their first month's premium. But this year, they may not have other viable choices if they live in an area reduced to one insurer.

Displaced customers who fail to sign up by the end of open enrollment will get another chance to do so in 2017, what's termed a "special enrollment period" because their insurance company left the market.

The new policy will be effective in most states, which use HealthCare.gov for sign-ups. In some cases, state regulators may have different rules.

Supporters of the health care law say the administration is taking a reasonable step, since losing customers would only further weaken the markets.

"If you want as many people as possible to remain covered, what they are doing is a good idea," said Judy Solomon of the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, which advocates for low-income people. "They are doing the best they can with a difficult situation on this one."

## Trump, once a data skeptic, spending millions on data

By JULIE BYKOWICZ, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Donald Trump once called data "overrated" in politics. But with Election Day swiftly approaching, the Republican presidential nominee is spending millions of dollars on data and digital services in an effort to land donations and win over voters.

Ushering Trump toward a more analytical approach are Jared Kushner, Trump's son-in-law and adviser, and Brad Parscale, the campaign's digital director and a veteran Trump Organization consultant. Both men — friends — are new to politics and have built a team largely without Washington operatives, whom they dismiss as overpaid and overrated.

"People underestimate our data and digital because we haven't been outspoken about what we're doing," Parscale said in an interview.

Modern political campaigns gather up as much data as possible to raise money and identify, reach and turn out voters. They use voter registration files, commercially available information about consumer habits and beliefs, and much more.

The most effective campaigns — think President Barack Obama's — will arm their employees and volunteers with those analytics to knock on the right doors and make the right phone calls. Data also underpin effective media and digital outreach. "Digital" encompasses mobile apps, advertisements on websites, short videos on social media platforms such as Facebook and Snapchat, and more.

The Trump analytics team has become increasingly confident in its work, saying the campaign has raised more than \$150 million online and produces tens of thousands of different kinds of online content every day to keep up the cash flow and connect with voters. On big-news days — such as the debate coming Sunday — the team creates 100,000 pieces of digital content.

"We are data-driven all throughout the campaign," Parscale said. "We don't spend a single dollar unless we know exactly what it's going to buy, who it's going to help us reach."

Trump is up against Hillary Clinton's seasoned team. Her director of analytics, Elan Kriegel, helped secure Obama's re-election victory four years ago. Dozens of data analysts have toiled away at her Brooklyn, New York, headquarters since the first days of her campaign in the spring of 2015.

The Clinton campaign also could be better positioned to make use of the data; as of August, she has

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more than 800 employees across the country, compared with Trump's 130 employees and roughly 100 consultants.

"The Trump campaign could say they are doing the best, hugest, most amazing data campaign in the history of mankind, but they're still not on par with Clinton," said Chris Wilson, who was director of research, analytics and digital strategy for Ted Cruz's presidential campaign. "Anything they are doing now is like sticking a Band-Aid on a gaping wound."

Kushner has overseen Trump's digital strategy since November. Parscale, whose firm is in San Antonio, Texas, has worked as a consultant to the campaign since its first day last year. This is his first national political campaign, but he has been a consultant to the Trump Organization since 2011.

The close relationships — and trust — among Parscale, Kushner and Trump have helped convince a once-skeptical Trump that it's wise to spend precious campaign money on data.

"I've always felt it was overrated," Trump said of data analytics in an AP interview in May. "Obama got the votes much more so than his data processing machine. And I think the same is true with me."

Yet Trump elevated Parscale to digital director June 21, and Parscale recently began working mostly from Trump Tower in New York. He sits next to Steve Bannon, chief executive officer of the Trump campaign and the former head of Breitbart News.

Parscale also has started weighing in beyond exclusively digital topics, including advising on television and radio placements — an echo of how Kriegel operates within Clinton's campaign.

He is the main liaison to the campaign's new media buyer, National Media, and its offshoot American Media and Advocacy Group. The Alexandria, Virginia-based consultants pioneered how campaigns buy TV ad slots to reach specific audiences, one reason the Trump campaign recently abandoned its other media buyers in favor of them.

The campaign announced plans to spend \$100 million on TV in the weeks left until the Nov. 8 election and at least \$40 million on digital advertising, such as display ads on websites and promoted messages on social media platforms.

Trump's increased commitment to digital and data shows up in his latest campaign finance reports.

His campaign spent \$11 million — almost one-third of its budget — on Parscale's firm Giles-Parscale in August, a 60 percent leap from its July payments. The Texas firm has dozens of employees working to produce and disseminate Trump content and purchases all of Trump's digital ads, in addition to handling online fundraising.

In August and July, the campaign paid Cambridge Analytica \$350,000 for data. The firm, funded in part by Trump supporter and billionaire financier Robert Mercer, pairs its vault of consumer data with voter information. Trump's campaign also has had access to the Republican National Committee's dataset.

The data approach isn't perfect: People outside the country and liberal, longtime Democrats — including those who are known to despise Trump — have reported getting Trump campaign mail and emails.

Former Mexican President Vicente Fox, who cannot contribute to American politicians because he is not a U.S. citizen, tweeted that he had received Trump fundraising emails. Democrats Amber and Steven Mostyn, Houston attorneys who have given millions of dollars to pro-Clinton efforts, also posted photographs on Twitter of Trump solicitations aimed at them.

The Trump campaign says it does not vet all of the names on the very large email lists that it purchases to prospect for donors.

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Keep track on how much Clinton and Trump are spending on television advertising, and where they're spending it, via AP's interactive ad tracker. <http://elections.ap.org/content/ad-spending>

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Follow Julie Bykowicz on Twitter at: <http://twitter.com/Bykowicz> .

## Once lauded as a peacemaker, Obama's tenure fraught with war

By KATHLEEN HENNESSEY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Seven years ago this week, when a young American president learned he'd been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize barely nine months into his first term — arguably before he'd made any peace — a somewhat embarrassed Barack Obama asked his aides to write an acceptance speech that addressed the awkwardness of the award.

But by the time his speechwriters delivered a draft, Obama's focus had shifted to another source of tension in his upcoming moment in Oslo: He would deliver this speech about peace just days after he planned to order 30,000 more American troops into battle in Afghanistan.

The president all-but scrapped the draft and wrote his own version.

The speech Obama delivered — a Nobel Peace Prize lecture about the necessity of waging war — now looks like an early sign that the American president would not be the sort of peacemaker the European intellectuals of the Nobel committee had anticipated.

On matters of war and peace, Obama has proven to be a confounding and contradictory figure, one who stands to leave behind both devastating and pressing failures, as well as a set of fresh accomplishments whose impact could resonate for decades.

He is the erstwhile anti-war candidate, now engaged in more theaters of war than his predecessor. He is the commander-in-chief who pulled more than a hundred thousand U.S. troops out of harm's way in Iraq, but also began a slow trickle back in. He recoiled against full-scale, conventional war, while embracing the brave new world of drone attacks. He has championed diplomacy on climate change, nuclear proliferation and has torn down walls to Cuba and Myanmar, but failed repeatedly to broker a lasting pause to more than six years of slaughter in Syria.

If there was consensus Obama had not yet earned his Nobel Peace Prize when he received it in 2009, there's little such agreement on whether he deserves it today.

"I don't think he would have been in the speculation of the Nobel committee now, in 2016, even if he had not already won," said Kristian Berg Harpviken, director of the Peace Research Institute of Oslo, and a close watcher of the Nobel committee. Harpviken said he views Obama's foreign policy as more conventional and limited than he expected, particularly regarding his use of multilateral cooperation and institutions.

When it comes to finding new instruments for peace, he said, "Obama has been stuck in the old paradigm."

By some sobering measures, the case for Obama the peacemaker is difficult to make. Analysts who track conflict, refugee populations, terrorist attacks and political upheaval say the world has only become less peaceful during Obama's tenure, a trend that began just before he took office.

Instances of terrorism have peaked, deaths in battle around the world are at a 25-year high, and the number of refugees and displaced people has reached a level not seen in sixty years, according to the 2016 Global Peace Index, a report on international stability produced by the nonpartisan think-tank the Institute for Economic and Peace. The researchers attributed the trends to the expanded warfare in the Middle East and North Africa and broad ripples across the region and in Europe.

Few would blame global strife on one man, even the commander of the world's most powerful military. And if anything, Obama's legacy— and his supporters would say his strength — is a steady wariness of limits of using that military without triggering unintended consequences.

That wariness has led to a seven-year debate over whether the president has used the tools of war to try to make peace too much or little.

The president's Nobel acceptance speech delivered to Oslo in December 2009 is something of a roadmap to Obama's thinking on use of force. In it, the president affirmed his readiness to wage war in self-defense and called for new thinking on the concept of "just war."

"More and more, we all confront difficult questions about how to prevent the slaughter of civilians by their own government, or to stop a civil war whose violence and suffering can engulf an entire region," Obama said, years before war broke out in Syria. "Inaction tears at our conscience and can lead to more costly intervention later. That's why all responsible nations must embrace the role that militaries with a

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clear mandate can play to keep the peace.”

Critics do not see Obama heeding his own call to responsible nations. Obama’s refusal to use force to depose Syrian President Bashar Assad, cripple his air force or more aggressively engage in diplomatic efforts to end the fighting have been a steady source of criticism. Many view it as an unfortunate overcorrection from the George W. Bush-era Iraq war.

“The president correctly wanted to move away from the maximalist approach of the previous administration, but in doing so he went to a minimalist, gradualist and proxy approach that is prolonging the war. Where is the justice in that?” said Ret. Lt. Gen. Jim Dubik, a senior fellow at the Institute for the Study of War and the author of the book, “Just War Reconsider.” Obama should have worked harder to rally a coalition around a shared vision of a stable Middle East, he believes. “Part of the requirement of leadership,” Dubik said, “is to operate in that space between where the world is and where the world ought to go.”

The president’s advisers contend such criticism comes from a misguided presumption that more force yields more peace. Cold-eyed assessments of the options in Syria show no certainty of outcomes, they say, only risk of broader conflict.

“In Syria, there is no international basis to go to war against the Assad regime. Similarly, there’s no clearly articulable objective as to how it would play out. What is the end that we’re seeking militarily?” said deputy national security adviser Ben Rhodes. “The president doesn’t believe you can impose order through military force alone.”

But Obama has in many other cases been willing to use limited force to achieve limited objectives, even risking unintended consequences.

He has ordered drone strikes in Pakistan, Yemen, Libya, Somalia and Syria that have killed civilians and sparked tension in those countries and across the international community. What began as a secret program has become more transparent as Obama has aimed to leave legal limits for his predecessor on the use of unmanned warplanes.

But he has left unanswered the question of how or when those actions will lead to peace, some argued.

Looking back on Obama’s Nobel speech, that dilemma was already there, said Jon Alterman, a Middle East expert and former State Department official.

“What’s strikes me most is how different our concept of war was seven years ago,” he said. “We are engaged in a whole series of infinitely sustainable, low-level actions that have no logical endpoint. When do we stop doing drone attacks in Yemen and Pakistan? What level of terrorism is acceptable? ... We’re engaged in battles with a whole range of groups that are never going to surrender, so how do you decide to stop it? How do you decide what winning looks like?”

## Nearly 2M urged to evacuate as Matthew edges toward US

By MIKE SCHNEIDER and KELLI KENNEDY, Associated Press

MELBOURNE BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Hurricane Matthew marched toward Florida, Georgia and the Carolinas and nearly 2 million people along the coast were urged to evacuate their homes, a mass exodus ahead of a major storm packing power the U.S. hasn’t seen in more than a decade.

Matthew was a dangerous and life-threatening Category 3 storm with sustained winds of 115 mph (185 kph) as it pounded the central Bahamas early Thursday. Forecasters said it’s expected to strengthen over the coming day or so into an even more potent Category 4 hurricane as it approaches Florida’s Atlantic coast. At least 16 deaths in the Caribbean have been blamed on the storm, with heavy damage reported in Haiti.

The storm was forecast to scrape much of the Florida coast and any slight deviation could mean landfall or it heading farther out to sea. Either way, it was going to be close enough to wreak havoc along the lower part of the East Coast, and many people weren’t taking any chances.

In Melbourne Beach, near the Kennedy Space Center, Carlos and April Medina moved their paddle board and kayak inside the garage and took pictures off the walls of their home about 500 feet from the

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coast. They moved the pool furniture inside, turned off the water, disconnected all electrical appliances and emptied their refrigerator.

They then hopped in a truck filled with legal documents, jewelry and a decorative carved shell that had once belonged to April Medina's great-grandfather and headed west to Orlando, where they planned to ride out the storm with their daughter's family.

"The way we see it, if it maintains its current path, we get tropical storm-strength winds. If it makes a little shift to the left, it could be a Category 2 or 3 and I don't want to be anywhere near it," Carlos Medina said. "We are just being a little safe, a little bit more cautious."

About 20 miles away in the town of Cape Canaveral, John Long said Hurricane Matthew is just hype as his neighbors in his RV park packed up and evacuated inland. Even though his 32-foot RV is just feet from the Banana River and a half mile from the beach, he had no plans to leave.

Long, who owns a bike shop and has lived along the Space Coast for 30 years, said he has a generator and enough food and water for himself and his cats to last a week.

"There's always tremendous buildup and then it's no stronger than an afternoon thunderstorm," he said. "I'm not anticipating that much damage."

In Fort Lauderdale, about 200 miles south, six employees at a seven-bedroom Mediterranean-style mansion packed up for an evacuation fearing any storm surge could flood the property. The homeowners planned to move to another home they own in Palm Beach that's further from the water. Two Lamborghinis and a Ferrari had been placed inside the garage, but employee Mae White wasn't sure what they would do with a Rolls Royce, Mustang and other cars still parked in the driveway.

"This storm surge. It's scary," White said. "You're on the water, you've got to go."

The last Category 3 storm or higher to hit the United States was Wilma in October 2005. It made landfall with 120 mph (190 kph) winds in southwest Florida, killing five people as it pushed through the Everglades and into the Fort Lauderdale and Palm Beach area. It caused an estimated \$21 billion in damage and left thousands of residents without power for more than a week. It concluded a two-year span when a record eight hurricanes hit the state.

As of 2 a.m. Thursday, Matthew was centered about 295 miles (480 kilometers) southeast of West Palm Beach and moving northwest at 10 mph (17 kph), according to the National Hurricane Center. Hurricane-force winds extended 45 miles (72 kilometers) from the center, it said, adding Matthew is forecast to strengthen over the next day or so and become a Category 4 hurricane while approaching Florida's Atlantic coast.

"When a hurricane is forecast to take a track roughly parallel to a coastline, as Matthew is forecast to do from Florida through South Carolina, it becomes very difficult to specify impacts at any one location," said National Hurricane Center forecaster Lixion Avila.

Florida can expect as much as 10 inches of rain in some isolated areas.

In South Carolina, Gov. Nikki Haley reversed the lanes of Interstate 26 so that all lanes of traffic were headed west and out of Charleston. It was the first time the lanes had been reversed. Plans to reverse the lanes were put in place after hours-long traffic jams during Hurricane Floyd in 1999.

The governor planned to call for more evacuations on Thursday, which would bring the total to about 500,000 people in the state. Florida urged or ordered about 1.5 million to leave the coast, said Jackie Schutz, spokeswoman for Gov. Rick Scott. Georgia had around 50,000 people told to go.

At Folly Beach, South Carolina, southwest of Charleston, Gaby Trompeter loaded her car at her beach-front home preparing to evacuate to Augusta, Georgia.

Trompeter, a 50-year-old goldsmith who designs and makes jewelry, remembers Hurricane Hugo when she stayed in Savannah, Georgia, in 1989.

A year ago when what has been described as a 1,000-year flood inundated South Carolina there was so much water on the road near her house she couldn't get out for three days.

"If it brings a lot of rain, more than the storm last year, why would I want to stay?" she said.

President Barack Obama visited the Federal Emergency Management Agency's headquarters Wednesday to be briefed on preparations. FEMA has deployed personnel to emergency operation centers in Florida, Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina.

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On the Georgia coast, 92-year-old Lou Arcangeli saw two of his adult children come to his home on Tybee Island to help prepare and evacuate if necessary.

"It's serious," said Arcangeli, who has lived in the Savannah area since 1979, when Hurricane David became the last hurricane to make landfall on Georgia's 100-mile coast. "I'm going to keep an eye on it and not wait until the last minute. As far as I'm concerned, what's going to happen is going to happen."

Farmers in Matthew's path scrambled to protect their crops. In South Carolina, Jeremy Cannon was harvesting his soybeans a week early after waiting too long before last year's record rainstorm. He watched his soybeans and cotton crops slowly drown as 20 inches of rain fell, costing him \$800,000.

"I don't want to lose a single soybean this year if I don't have to," Cannon said. "The Lord says pray without ceasing. And that's what I've been doing — in the fields, near the barn — just praying all the time. I don't want to find out what I'll have to do if I get wiped out for another year."

Kennedy reported from Fort Lauderdale. Associated Press reporters Terry Spencer in Fort Lauderdale, Freida Frisaro in Miami, Jennifer Kay in Miami Beach, Florida, Russ Bynum in Savannah, Georgia, Martha Waggoner in Raleigh, North Carolina, Jeffrey Collins, Jack Jones and Meg Kinnard in Columbia, South Carolina; Bruce Smith in Charleston, South Carolina.

## Portugal's Guterres, likely UN chief, wants to build bridges

By EDITH M. LEDERER, Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Portugal's former prime minister Antonio Guterres, who is virtually certain to be the next U.N. secretary-general, says he wants to be "an honest broker, a bridge-builder and someone who tries to create conditions for consensus."

The veteran politician and diplomat, who won unanimous backing from the U.N. Security Council on Wednesday, said in an interview with The Associated Press and two other news organizations during his campaign that if he got the job his aim would be to work with all countries to help solve the myriad problems on the global agenda.

The Security Council is scheduled to meet behind closed doors Thursday morning for a formal vote on Guterres' candidacy. Russia's U.N. Ambassador Vitaly Churkin, the current council president, expressed hope that the council will recommend Guterres by "acclamation" to the 193-member General Assembly, which must approve a successor to Ban Ki-moon, whose second five-year term ends Dec. 31.

Guterres topped all six informal polls in the council after receiving high marks from almost every diplomat for his performance in the first-ever question-and-answer sessions for candidates in the General Assembly. He was the only candidate of the 10 in the race to receive no "discourage" votes in Wednesday's poll, which was the first to use colored ballots to distinguish the votes of the five veto-wielding permanent members — the United States, Russia, China, Britain and France.

The result disappointed campaigners for a woman or East European to be the world's top diplomat for the first time.

Guterres will almost certainly select a woman as deputy secretary-general and he said in the interview that one of the things that is "crucial" at the male-dominated United Nations is "to have gender parity."

He said that his 10 years as the U.N. high commissioner for refugees, which ended in December, were "excellent preparation" for a secretary-general who needs to be an honest broker and be seen by countries as independent in order to promote consensus and overcome crises.

"I think we are living in a world where we see a multiplication of new conflicts, and you see an enormous difficulty in solving the conflicts," Guterres said. "There is a clear lack of capacity in the international community to prevent and to solve conflicts."

What's needed, he said, is a new "diplomacy for peace" which requires discreet diplomatic contacts and shuttling among key players in conflicts and disputes. The secretary-general should also engage as much as possible and "act with humility to try to create the conditions for member states that are the crucial actors in any process to be able to come together and overcome their differences," he said.



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Guterres said the simple answer to why he wants to be secretary-general can be found in "The Parable of The Talents" from the New Testament, which has been the central thing in his life.

"I think that one in life receives a lot of gifts, and one has the responsibility to pay back, no? And to multiply the gifts that were received," he said.

Guterres received a very good education and said he dreamed of being a researcher in physics, and became an assistant physics professor. But he also got involved with a group of students and volunteered in the slums of Lisbon and saw tremendous social problems in the last years of Antonio Salazar's four-decade dictatorship in Portugal, which ended in 1974.

"That made me rethink my life," Guterres said. "Now, again, because of 'The Parable of The Talents,' where can I pay back better?"

He left physics, which he said "still remains the most important intellectual passion of my life," and became totally involved in the revolution, where he was in charge of organizing the center-left Socialist Party. He became party leader and in 1995, at age 45, when the party won election he became prime minister, a post he held for 10 years.

Guterres said he decided to leave political life because "if you really want to do things there is a moment in which you discover that it's probably better to let others do it." He was still president of the Socialist International but he said he really wanted to do humanitarian work at the global level, so he applied to be the U.N. refugee chief and got the job.

The 10 years as high commissioner were "the most remarkable experience you can imagine," he said. "It's the most fascinating work you can have, very demanding ... and I gained a lot of experience in dealing with all crises and all governments" involved in crises everywhere.

After his term ended, Guterres said, he felt an obligation to do something "having had this dramatic experience of dealing with people that are suffering enormously" as refugees and having no solution to their plight.

He said the place where he could probably contribute the most to solve that problem and other global crises was at the United Nations so he decided to apply to be secretary-general.

"If I get it ..." Guterres said, "I will do my best to be useful and to pay back the talents that I received."

## The Latest: Pence delivers blistering attack on Clinton

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Latest on the 2016 presidential campaign (All times EDT):

9:15 p.m.

Mike Pence is finishing his first day campaigning after the vice presidential debate with a blistering indictment of Hillary Clinton.

Playing off Clinton's reference last month to half of Trump's supporters as a "basket of deplorables," Pence thunders, "You cannot lead people that you loathe."

Pence is rallying more than 400 people in the rural southern part of Pennsylvania.

The audience waited for more than an hour for Pence, whose bus was late. Members of the audience shouted to Pence, "You did great," praising his debate performance versus Democratic counterpart Tim Kaine.

Pence is accusing Clinton and her husband, former President Bill Clinton, of spending 30 years "perfecting the politics of personal profit."

He says "it's all going to come crashing in the day Donald Trump is elected."

7:43 p.m.

New York native Donald Trump is lecturing his supporters in Nevada that their state is correctly pronounced "Neh-VAH-da."

The Republican presidential candidate performed an exaggerated form of his preferred pronunciation from the stage of a rally in Reno. He declared that "nobody says it the other way." But the confused silence from the crowd mixed with a few shouts of disagreement indicated that quite a few Nevadans pronounce

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their home state "Neh-VAD-uh."

American Bridge, a group that supports Hillary Clinton, immediately put up a web video declaring that Trump was "looking like an idiot" for getting the name wrong.

6:54 p.m.

Hillary Clinton says Republican vice presidential candidate Mike Pence "bobbed and weaved" when he was asked to defend GOP nominee Donald Trump in Tuesday night's debate.

Clinton says at a Washington fundraiser that Pence was trying to get out of the way of defending his running mate because defending Trump "is an impossible task."

Pence stood up for Trump's leadership qualities but let some of Kaine's criticisms of Trump's remarks on Mexicans and women stand.

6:44 p.m.

Democratic vice presidential nominee Tim Kaine says he won the debate against Mike Pence. But acknowledged that even his wife gave him a hard time for interrupting Pence so much.

Hillary Clinton's running mate joked to supporters Wednesday at a Philadelphia sheet metal workers union hall that being Irish is to blame for his feisty approach.

The Virginia senator has been widely criticized for his aggressive style at the debate.

Kaine kept up his criticism of Pence on Wednesday for not sticking up for his presidential candidate, Donald Trump.

Kaine said, "Your running mate ought to be able to defend you."

Kaine compared himself to a good hockey goalie who blocked Pence from scoring any substantive attacks on Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton.

6:15 p.m.

Democrats are courting organized labor in eastern Ohio by highlighting Donald Trump's use of Chinese steel and aluminum in his construction projects.

Newsweek reported on the Republican nominee's dealings earlier this week. It came up throughout Bill Clinton's bus tour in an area of Ohio critical to Hillary Clinton's chances against Trump. The billionaire businessman has railed against international trade.

Ohio Sen. Sherrod Brown told union workers Wednesday in Canton that Trump stiffed Americans by buying illegally subsidized materials from overseas. Brown said all Trump does "is run his mouth and pad his pocket."

Bill Clinton said "they knew they were selling that steel illegally." The former president argued Hillary Clinton's proposals would foster economic growth in the United States without abandoning international trade.

5:45 p.m.

Sen. John McCain is defending Donald Trump after the GOP nominee seemed to suggest that veterans suffering from mental health issues may not be as strong as those who don't.

The Arizona senator says in an interview with the Arizona Daily Star's editorial board that Trump's comments were misconstrued by the press.

He calls it "the classic example of the media feeding frenzy that is going on. The bias that is in the media."

Trump drew criticism from some veterans groups when he said earlier this week that some who have served are "strong" and "can handle it. But a lot of people can't handle it."

Trump thanked McCain on Twitter for his "kind remarks."

Trump and McCain have had a stormy relationship, with Trump at one point questioning whether McCain should be considered a war hero because the former prisoner of war was captured during the Vietnam War.

5:03 p.m.

Donald Trump is calling the Federal Reserve "a political organization" and suggested that Chairwoman

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Janet Yellen was keeping interest rates low at the Obama administration's behest.

Trump was sharply critical of the Fed during a Wednesday luncheon with Latino business leaders at a Mexican restaurant in Las Vegas.

The Republican nominee bemoaned how hard it was for minority-businesses to receive bank loans and then criticized the Fed, calling it "another political arm of the administration."

The Federal Reserve is an independent organization and Yellen last week denounced Trump's previous claim that she was considering politics when making decisions about interest rates.

3:55 p.m.

Donald Trump is once again pushing back on characterizations by his Democratic rivals that he's too cozy with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

He says at a rally in Henderson, Nevada, that people say, "Donald Trump loves Putin. I don't love, I don't hate, we'll see how it works."

Trump says that maybe he and Putin will have "a good relationship. Maybe we'll have a horrible relationship. Maybe we'll have a relationship right in the middle."

But he is repeating his willingness to work with the strongman to combat Islamic State group militants despite disagreements between the two countries.

Trump says, "If we got along with Russia and Russia went out with us and knocked the hell out of ISIS, that's OK with me."

Washington this week suspended direct U.S.-Russian talks on a Syria cease-fire in a move blamed on Russia's rejection of diplomacy in favor of helping the Assad government.

3:50 p.m.

Republican Mike Pence has emerged from the vice presidential debate newly energized.

He's set on winning over small-town and rural conservatives in big, influential states for Donald Trump.

But the praise Pence is receiving after Tuesday's debate is also an awkward reminder of Trump's failings in his own debate. Unlike Trump, the understated Pence kept calm during the debate, never getting riled during the stream of attacks from Democratic vice presidential nominee Tim Kaine.

That has some Republicans wishing he was atop the ticket — and thinking that he may be in the future if Trump doesn't win this year.

Pence kept up his subdued tone on a bus tour Wednesday through Virginia, Pennsylvania and Ohio.

At a Virginia rally, he joked: "I'm the other face on the bus."

3:35 p.m.

Donald Trump is taking credit for Mike Pence's strong debate performance because it was "my first hire."

Trump, speaking Wednesday in Nevada, said Pence did "an incredible job" and "I'm getting a lot of credit" because the Indiana governor was his choice to be vice president.

The Republican nominee also said that Tuesday's debate allowed voters "to look first-hand at my judgment." And he said "you need judgment for people, for deals."

Trump chose Pence in July after days of very public ruminations about whom he should select as a running mate.

Pence squared off with Democrat Virginia Senator Tim Kaine in the lone vice presidential debate. Trump will hold his second debate with Hillary Clinton on Sunday in St. Louis.

3:30 p.m.

Mike Pence is making a pit stop — that is, barbecue pit stop — in the northwest Virginia city of Harrisonburg.

Pence stopped at the Bar-BQ Ranch, a roadside restaurant where a sign proclaims: "Pigs are beautiful."

Pence and his daughter Charlotte -- followed by Secret Service and press -- grabbed pulled pork sandwiches, topped with coleslaw, and worked the late lunch group at the 68--year-old joint popular with the

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James Madison University crowd.

Pence poked his head through the order window and said: "I've heard you got some good barbecue here."

Pence stopped to talk to Gerald Spence, a JMU math instructor. Spence congratulated Pence on his debate performance against Tim Kaine the night before. He said: "You laid some good ones on him."

Pence replied: "I did my best."

2:21 p.m.

Donald Trump is praising his running mate Mike Pence's performance in the vice presidential debate.

The Republican nominee, speaking Wednesday at a church in Las Vegas, said he was "very proud" to watch his running mate square off against Hillary Clinton's ticket mate, Tim Kaine.

Trump said Pence "won on the issues."

"Some say he won on style but style doesn't matter," said Trump, who noted that Pence was getting "great reviews" in the media.

The celebrity businessman spoke as he visited with a group of pastors at the International Church of Las Vegas. Trump also praised Pence as a "good Christian" before reading a verse from the Bible.

2:05 p.m.

Donald Trump is warning that a Hillary Clinton victory in November would "endanger religious liberty" across America.

The Republican presidential nominee said that if Clinton won "religious liberty wouldn't be there" and the result would be "a different country."

Trump again vowed to overturn the Johnson Amendment, which prohibits houses of worship advancing specific candidates or political parties.

He made the remarks at a visit to the International Christian Academy, a charter school affiliated with the International Church of Las Vegas

He also visited an indoor soccer practice and a 1st grade classroom, where the students greeted him with the gift of a Bible and then recited both the Pledge of Allegiance and an adaption of that called Pledge to the Bible.

12:50 p.m.

Hillary Clinton is at her Washington home, preparing for the second presidential debate.

Campaign chairman John Podesta, top aide Jake Sullivan and debate team advisers Ron Klain and Karen Dunn arrived at the Democratic nominee's home around lunchtime Wednesday.

Podesta told reporters that the town hall setting for Sunday's debate in St. Louis "is a natural format for her."

Podesta said "that's a format that Donald Trump isn't as used to."

## Activists blast 'O'Reilly Factor' Chinatown piece as racist

By LYNN ELBER, AP Television Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Watchdog and activist groups are outraged by a Fox News Channel segment in which an interviewer asked people in New York's Chinatown if he was supposed to bow to greet them, if they were selling stolen goods and if they could "take care of North Korea for us."

Several organizations condemned humorist Jesse Watters' piece on "The O'Reilly Factor," calling it racist and demeaning to Asian-Americans.

"It's 2016. We should be far beyond tired, racist stereotypes and targeting an ethnic group for humiliation and objectification on the basis of their race," Asian American Journalists Association President Paul Cheung said in a letter to Fox and posted online. He is director of interactive and digital news production for The Associated Press.

Cheung called on Fox to apologize to the Asian-American community and asked for "an explanation for

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how this type of coverage will be prevented in the future.”

Watters asked people on the street about the presidential race, sought a demonstration of karate and showed footage of him getting a pedicure.

At one point in Monday’s nearly five-minute segment, an elderly woman’s silence in response to a query was paired with a clip from Mel Brooks’ “Young Frankenstein” in which Madeline Kahn shouts, “Speak, speak, why don’t you speak?!”

Gregory A. Cendana, executive director of the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, criticized the report. The coverage, including making “fun” of the Chinese elder, “played into the exoticization and status of perpetual foreigner” of the Asian-American community, Cendana said in a statement.

After the “Watters World” report concluded, Bill O’Reilly called it “gentle fun,” adding, “we’re gonna get letters, inevitably.”

On Wednesday, the Asian Americans Advancing Justice affiliation said it was outraged by the “blatant, racist and offensive stereotypes of Chinese Americans.”

“It is unconscionable that a news organization would sanction a segment that laughs at a community of people, including Watters ridiculing elderly Chinese Americans who were limited English-proficient,” the group said.

U.S. Rep. Ted W. Lieu, D-California, weighed in as well.

“Note to Bill O’Reilly and Fox News: Your recent segment mocking Asian American voters and using every conceivable stereotype was, at best, racist and, at worst, really racist. I am not ‘patient’ or ‘gentle’ nor do I ‘bow’ when I say hello or know ‘karate.’ So let me gently say this: if you are not racist at heart, then you would apologize. Immediately,” Lieu said in a statement.

Asked for a response to critics, Fox directed attention to two Twitter posts Wednesday by Watters.

“As a political humorist, the Chinatown segment was intended to be a light piece, as all Watters World segments are,” he wrote.

“My man-on-the-street interviews are meant to be taken as tongue-in-cheek and I regret if anyone found offense,” Watters’ second tweet said.

Lynn Elber can be reached at [lelber@ap.org](mailto:lelber@ap.org) and on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/lynnelber>.

## Paris climate agreement to take effect Nov. 4

By MICHAEL ASTOR, Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The landmark Paris agreement on climate change will enter into force on Nov. 4, after a coalition of the world’s largest polluters and small island nations threatened by rising seas pushed it past a key threshold on Wednesday.

President Barack Obama hailed the news as “a turning point for our planet,” and U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon called the agreement’s strong international support a “testament for the urgency of action.” Katharine Hayhoe, a climate scientist at Texas Tech, called it: “A moment of bright hope in the increasingly discouraging landscape of climate science.”

U.N. deputy spokesman Farhan Haq said late Wednesday that the European Union and 10 countries deposited their instruments of ratification on Wednesday. The percentage of emissions they account for topped the 55 percent threshold needed for the treaty to take effect, he said.

Haq said the 10 countries were Austria, Bolivia, Canada, France, Germany, Hungary, Malta, Nepal, Portugal and Slovakia.

“I am delighted to announce that today the Paris Agreement will cross the second and final threshold needed for entry into force, and will enter into force on 4 November 2016,” Ban said in a statement issued from Europe. “Global momentum for the Paris Agreement to enter into force in 2016 has been remarkable. What once seemed unthinkable is now unstoppable.”

The deal takes effect 30 days after 55 countries, accounting for at least 55 percent of global emissions, have adopted it. Sixty-two countries had done so as of Tuesday but they accounted only for about 52

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percent of emissions.

A U.N. website said that as of Wednesday afternoon 73 of the 197 parties to the treaty, accounting for 56.87 percent of the world's greenhouse gas emissions, have deposited their instruments of ratification.

Obama welcomed the news with a special address in the Rose Garden.

"Today, the world meets the moment," Obama said. "And if we follow through on the commitments that this Paris agreement embodies, history may well judge it as a turning point for our planet."

The Paris agreement commits rich and poor countries to take action to curb the rise in global temperatures that is melting glaciers, raising sea levels and shifting rainfall patterns. It requires governments to present national plans to reduce emissions to limit global temperature rise to well below 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit).

While the targets in the agreement are not legally binding, the treaty does require countries to report on emissions and their progress on reaching the goals in the national climate plans they submitted to the U.N. The countries are also required to maintain those plans, update them every five years and to pursue measures to implement their stated goals.

"It's clearly a momentous moment in terms of global action on climate change," said David Waskow, international climate director at World Resources Institute. "This has been much more rapid than anticipated and demonstrates political support for the agreement."

The accord, which was adopted by consensus on Dec. 12, 2015, has entered into force at what is considered record speed for international diplomacy, reflecting a sense of urgency in the fight against global warming and a desire to seal the deal before Ban and Obama leave office.

Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton supports the accord, while Republican Donald Trump opposes it.

International momentum had been building to ensure that the deal could enter force before the next U.N. climate conference, which starts Nov. 7 in Marrakech, Morocco.

Morocco's Ambassador of Multilateral Negotiations Aziz Mekouar said with the treaty entering into force Marrakech will now host the first Conference of Parties to the Paris agreement.

"Last year, it was an historic event," Mekouar said, referring to the conference where the agreement was first adopted. "This year, it's even more of an historic event."

Michael Oppenheimer, a professor of geosciences at Princeton University, warned, however, that there's still a long road ahead.

"There's a lot of hard work ahead to fulfill the main Paris goal, avoiding dangerous climate change. Without focused efforts starting now, we are not going to avoid falling over a very steep cliff," Oppenheimer said in an email.

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Associated Press Writers Nancy Benac and Seth Borenstein in Washington contributed to this report.

## **NSA contractor accused of taking classified information**

**By TAMI ABDOLLAH and ERIC TUCKER, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — A contractor for the National Security Agency has been arrested on charges that he illegally removed highly classified information and stored the material in his home and car, federal prosecutors said Wednesday.

Harold Thomas Martin III, 51, of Glen Burnie, Maryland, was arrested by the FBI in August after he admitted to having taken government secrets, authorities said. A defense attorney said Martin did not intend to betray his country.

The arrest was not made public until Wednesday, when the Justice Department unsealed a criminal complaint that accused Martin of having been in possession of top-secret information that could cause "exceptionally grave danger" to national security if disclosed.

Among the classified documents found with Martin, the FBI said, were six that contain sensitive intelligence — meaning they were produced through sensitive government sources or methods that are critical to national security — and date back to 2014. All the documents were clearly marked as classified informa-

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tion, according to a FBI affidavit accompanying the complaint.

The complaint does not specify what documents Martin is alleged to have taken. He was arrested around the same time U.S. officials acknowledged an investigation into a cyber leak of purported hacking tools used by the NSA. That tool kit consists of malicious software intended to tamper with firewalls, the electronic defenses protecting computer networks. Those documents were leaked by a group calling itself the "Shadow Brokers." The complaint does not reference that group or allege a link to Martin.

The arrest could turn into another embarrassment for the U.S. intelligence community. It would be the second known case since 2013 of a government contractor being publicly accused of removing secret data from the NSA, which monitors and collects sensitive information and data, mostly from overseas.

At the White House, spokesman Josh Earnest said President Barack Obama takes the situation "quite seriously. And it is a good reminder for all of us with security clearances about how important it is for us to protect sensitive national security information."

The New York Times first reported the arrest of an NSA contractor who worked for Booz Allen Hamilton. The complaint does not identify the agency Martin worked for as a contractor, but Adm. Mike Rogers, who heads the NSA, confirmed that Martin worked as a contractor for NSA.

"We do acknowledge that we arrested a contractor who had been employed at the NSA," Rogers said at an event at Harvard University. He declined to offer any details about the case because it was still being investigated.

Booz Allen said in a statement that after learning of the arrest of one of its employees, it reached out to law enforcement authorities to offer its cooperation and fired the worker.

At Martin's home, investigators found stolen property valued at "well in excess of \$1,000," the complaint said. He voluntarily agreed to an interview.

"Martin at first denied, and later when confronted with specific documents, admitted he took documents and digital files from his work assignment to his residence and vehicle that he knew were classified," the affidavit says. "Martin stated that he knew what he had done was wrong and that he should not have done it because he knew it was unauthorized."

He was arrested Aug. 27 and remains in custody.

"There is no evidence that Hal Martin intended to betray his country," his public defenders, James Wyda and Deborah Boardman, said in a statement. "What we do know is that Hal Martin loves his family and his country. He served honorably as a lieutenant in the United States Navy, and he has devoted his entire career to serving his country. We look forward to defending Hal Martin in court."

Greg Mickley, who lives several houses down from Martin, said his family was barbecuing on a Saturday afternoon in August when they heard a loud bang.

"They threw, we're guessing, a flashbang (stun grenade) in his house and raided and went in the house, and they were there for 11 hours — in and out, and they had him outside in cuffs," Mickley said, recalling the afternoon of the arrest.

The complaint charges Martin with unauthorized removal and retention of classified materials and theft of government property.

In 2013, NSA contractor Edward Snowden, who also worked for Booz Allen, stole classified records from NSA that he leaked to journalists, revealing the agency's bulk collection of millions of Americans' phone records.

The disclosures set off a fierce debate that pit civil libertarians concerned about privacy against more hawkish lawmakers fearful about losing tools to combat terrorism. Democrats and libertarian-leaning Republicans pushed through a reauthorization of the USA Patriot Act last year that ended the program.

Snowden fled to Hong Kong, then Russia, to avoid being arrested, though he does face criminal charges in the United States. Snowden now wants a presidential pardon because he says he helped his country by revealing secret domestic surveillance programs.

After news broke of Martin's arrest, Snowden tweeted: "Am I correct in reading they didn't charge him under the Espionage Act? Under this administration, that's a noteworthy absence."

The allegations are also a potentially uncomfortable indication that the steps the NSA took after the Snowden disclosures to limit insider threats were not enough.

Rogers has spoken since the disclosures about efforts the agency has taken to ensure that such a thing doesn't happen again.

"At times, I have some people telling me, 'Hey, what this (the Snowden disclosures) should show you is, you can't trust contractors,'" Rogers said in a speech at Stanford University in 2014, noting that some of the biggest compromises of information came from direct U.S. employees. "This idea that you can't trust contractors, I just don't think I'm concerned about the long-term implications of that."

Associated Press writers Ben Nuckols, Deb Riechmann and Nancy Benac in Washington and Brian Witte in Glen Burnie, Maryland, contributed to this report.

## Plane evacuated after Samsung smartphone starts smoking

By **REBECCA REYNOLDS YONKER** and **DAVID KOENIG**, Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — An overheating, smoking Samsung smartphone forced the evacuation of a Southwest Airlines jet that was preparing to take off Wednesday from the Louisville airport.

The incident raised fresh trouble for Samsung, which saw its new Galaxy Note 7 device recalled last month because of overheating batteries.

Samsung, Southwest and federal aviation-safety officials declined to say what model of Samsung phone was involved, saying they were still investigating.

But an Indiana woman, Sarah Green, told The Courier-Journal of Louisville that it was her husband's Galaxy Note 7 that made popping noises and started to smoke after he powered it down while the plane sat at the gate.

Green told the newspaper that her husband, Brian, received the Galaxy Note 7 about two weeks ago as a replacement for his recalled phone. He called her from someone else's phone to tell her what happened.

Last month Samsung agreed to recall the Galaxy Note 7 after receiving 92 reports of batteries overheating in the U.S., including 26 reports of burns and 55 cases of property damage. The Federal Aviation Administration took the unusual step of warning passengers not to use or charge the devices while on board and not to stow them in checked luggage.

Flight attendants on many airlines added a warning about the Samsung device to their pre-flight safety demonstrations.

However, the FAA's advisory to airlines did not apply to replacement Galaxy Note 7s. Those phones have a green battery icon.

Samsung Electronics Co. said in a statement that it could not confirm that the latest incident involved a new Note 7. Samsung said it is working with authorities to recover the device and confirm the cause of overheating.

The FAA also declined to specify the model of the phone. Spokesman Ian Gregor said the FAA was still investigating the incident.

The Galaxy Note 7, which sells for \$850 to \$890, competes in the high-end smartphone business with Apple and its new iPhone 7. Samsung dominates the market for Android-powered phones but faces growing pressure — just Tuesday, Google unveiled its new Pixel phones at \$650 and up.

Wednesday's mishap occurred while the Southwest plane with 75 passengers and crew members prepared to fly from Louisville to Baltimore. Fire Capt. Sal Melendez said the device overheated during the crew's safety demonstration.

Southwest Airlines Co. spokesman Brad Hawkins said a passenger reported smoke coming from a Samsung device and that everyone got off the plane through the main cabin door.

No one was injured in the evacuation, but the plane's carpet suffered minor damage where the phone was dropped, fire officials said.



Koenig reported from Dallas.

## After testy VP debate, Trump rebuffs claim he 'loves' Putin

By JONATHAN LEMIRE and JOSH LEDERMAN, Associated Press

HENDERSON, Nev. (AP) — Donald Trump pushed back Wednesday on Hillary Clinton's accusation that he's cozying up to Russian President Vladimir Putin after the charge put Trump's running mate on the defensive during the vice presidential debate.

Trump offered effusive praise for Mike Pence's performance — but also claimed credit for it — even as both campaigns acknowledged that the sole vice presidential debate was unlikely to alter the race's trajectory.

The celebrity businessman said his relationship with Russia's leader would be determined by how Moscow responds to strong U.S. leadership under a Trump administration.

"They say Donald Trump loves Putin. I don't love, I don't hate. We'll see how it works," Trump told a rally outside Las Vegas.

Clinton on Wednesday shrugged that off, saying Trump has "this weird fascination with dictators."

"My opponent seems not to know the difference between an ally and adversary," Clinton said at an evening fund raiser in Washington. "There seems to be some misunderstanding about what it means to have a dictatorship and provide leadership."

The billionaire candidate sought to take away an argument that Clinton and her running mate, Tim Kaine, have ramped up in the final weeks of the campaign as they work to portray Trump as dangerous for American interests overseas. While U.S.-Russia relations nosedive over failed diplomacy in Syria, Trump has complimented Putin, calling him a strong leader and even encouraging him to track down Clinton's missing e-mails, though Trump later said he was being sarcastic.

"You guys love Russia," Kaine said in Tuesday's debate. "You both have said Vladimir Putin is a better leader than the president."

In a forceful rebuke, Pence described Putin as a "small and bullying leader," but blamed Clinton and President Barack Obama for a "weak and feckless" foreign policy that had awakened Moscow's aggression in Ukraine and meddling in the Middle East.

The U.S. and Russia back opposing sides in Syria's civil war but both are fighting the Islamic State group there. The U.S. cut off talks with Russia about Syria this week after the latest cease-fire collapsed, blaming Russia for failing to fulfill its commitments under the deal.

"I can say this: If we get along and Russia went out with us and knocked the hell out of ISIS, that's OK with me folks," Trump said, using an acronym for the extremist group.

Since last week's debate, Trump has faced a barrage of questions over a leaked tax return showing he lost more than \$900 million in 1995. In turn, he's sought to reframe his life story as a comeback tale he hopes to recreate on behalf of a faltering nation.

"America needs a turnaround. American needs a comeback. America needs a change. And that's why I'm running," Trump said.

Taking the stage in Henderson, Nevada, Trump took his own victory lap for Pence's performance, which he called "phenomenal. Pence's cool demeanor contrasted with Trump's bluster during his own, top-of-the-ticket showdown against Clinton. However strong Pence's performance, Trump made clear he considers it a reflection of himself.

"I'm getting a lot of credit, because that's really my first so-called choice, that was my first hire," Trump said of Pence.

Even Clinton's team wasn't claiming that Kaine had come out on top. Former President Bill Clinton, for example, his wife's running mate "did just fine."

Kaine acknowledged that even his wife gave him a hard time for his constant interruptions during the debate. But Kaine said he was effectively able to block Pence from attacking Clinton. "I've never played hockey but I think I'd be a good goalie, based on last night," he said.

The big moment for their running mates behind them, both Clinton and Trump were shifting focus back

to each other — and to Sunday's debate, the second of three showdowns between the nominees.

Clinton was deep in debate prep Wednesday at her Washington home. She was huddling with campaign chairman John Podesta, top policy aid Jake Sullivan and her debate advisers.

Trump, meanwhile, was on the campaign trail, making several stops across Nevada. In Reno, the New Yorker appeared to lecture Nevadans on how their state is correctly pronounced and then did an exaggerated version of his preferred pronunciation of "Neh-VAH-da," though most residents of the Silver State pronounce it, "Neh-VAD-uh." He then declared that "nobody says it the other way."

Campaign manager Kellyanne Conway said, despite Trump's travels, the candidate was preparing "constantly" for the debate. Trump planned his own town hall in New Hampshire on Thursday, in an apparent dress rehearsal for the big event.

Lederman reported from Washington. Associated Press writers Bill Barrow, Alan Suderman, Jill Colvin and Ken Thomas contributed to this report.

Follow Jonathan Lemire at <https://twitter.com/JonLemire> and Josh Lederman at <http://twitter.com/joshledermanAP>

This story has been corrected to reflect \$900 million, not billion.

## Clown hoaxes force police to check pranks for real threats

By PAT EATON-ROBB, Associated Press

STORRS, Conn. (AP) — Carrying golf clubs, shovels and hockey sticks, several hundred University of Connecticut students gathered just before midnight in a cemetery, ready to do battle with menacing clowns they had heard might be lurking among the headstones.

Police determined that Monday's clown rumors were a hoax. But dozens of similar reports have surfaced across the country, largely on social media. And authorities are being forced to take them seriously as a potential threat to public safety, particularly at schools, where principals have conducted lockdowns and canceled classes.

"There are many other emergencies and calls for service that troopers and other first responders need to get to without being misdirected to a prank," Connecticut state troopers said in a statement.

Clown incidents have been reported this week at schools around the U.S., including Penn State University, where police said more than 500 students showed up early Tuesday to hunt for clowns.

Officials at Merrimack College in North Andover, Massachusetts, ordered students to shelter in place for more than 30 minutes Monday night and evacuated a dorm after social media reports that an armed clown could be on campus.

The clown situations "waste valuable resources and can lead to injuries to both first responders and members of the public," Connecticut state police said. The pranks "can cause major disruptions leading to schools, businesses and neighborhoods being placed into lockdown unnecessarily."

Sociologists say the panic over clowns, which may seem silly from a distance, is actually a new twist on a phenomenon as old as witch hunts.

"There is a sense that there is some evil force out there that we have to organize together to attack," said Dustin Kidd, a sociologist and pop culture expert at Temple University. "If anything, it's just distracting us from the real ordinary threats that we face in our everyday lives."

Rich Hanley, a journalism professor and social media expert at Quinnipiac University, which also had a clown scare this week, said the fear is easily spread on social media.

Posts on Twitter, Instagram and other sites, he said, often contain videos, images and statements that lack any context, factual filters or important details that would be in an actual news report. In a closed social situation, such as a school or university campus, that can easily lead to a less than rational response, he said.

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Hanley compared the situation to a "Twilight Zone" episode titled "The Monsters Are Due on Maple Street," in which "the monsters were all in peoples' heads," he said. "People respond, looking for pitchforks to get the monsters."

Because of that type of attention from the community, Hanley said, law enforcement must take the issue seriously.

"I don't think they have a choice," he said. He compared it to the practice known as "swatting," in which someone calls 911 to report that a person is being held hostage at an address. Even though it's a hoax, police, sometimes including SWAT teams, respond in force.

And it's not just at colleges. A false report last month of a clown grabbing a woman by the throat and threatening Reading, Ohio, schools led to classes being canceled for the day.

A 13-year-old student at Utley Middle School in Rockwall, Texas, was charged this week with making a terroristic threat after posting a purported clown's hit list. Police told Dallas-Fort Worth television station KDFW that the student put herself on the list and told authorities she was only trying to stop any "real" clowns from attacking her school.

Several teenagers in Connecticut were arrested Wednesday on charges of making threats, accused of posting clown hoaxes on Instagram that led to extra security at several school districts.

Police also warned that anyone making credible threats could be charged with a more serious felony under a law passed this year in response to the 2012 Sandy Hook school massacre. The law calls for up to 10 years in prison for anyone intending to cause the evacuation of a school or school grounds with a threat.

New Haven public schools banned clown costumes this Halloween season after an Instagram account emerged with pictures of menacing clowns and captions telling several area schools to "watch out" and "wait and see" whether the threats are fake.

School Superintendent Garth Harries said Tuesday that the posts have been disruptive to learning and to the school's sense of security.

"There is no question that whoever is promulgating this is making threats," Harries said. "We don't believe there is any credible threat of violence, but they are still making people uncomfortable."

## Activists blast LAPD video showing part of confrontation

By AMANDA LEE MYERS, Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — When the Los Angeles Police Department released video capturing part of a deadly confrontation between police and a black man, the criticism was immediate.

Although activists had been calling for the video's release, they slammed the footage for failing to show the entire confrontation with 18-year-old Carnell Snell.

And the police department's de facto policy on releasing such videos remains the same: keep them from the public except in rare cases.

"For them to pick and choose what to release, and release only those that they believe help justify a shooting, that's the worst of all worlds," said Peter Bibring, director of police practices at the American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California.

"It makes them look like they're just trying to spin the incident and not provide real transparency," he said.

The LAPD typically releases video of police shootings only under court order. Police Chief Charlie Beck told reporters the video involving Snell was released for public safety reasons and to correct misinformation.

"This is not done in any way to denigrate Mr. Snell," he said.

The video shows Snell was armed just before he was shot dead Saturday, but it didn't show when officers say he twice turned toward them holding a loaded semi-automatic handgun.

"If they can release that video, they can release every damn video," shouted Melina Abdullah, a Los Angeles Black Lives Matter member who protested Snell's death at a police commission meeting Tuesday.

Abdullah said the footage amounted to posthumously assassinating Snell's character and doesn't prove the shooting was justified.

The quick release of the video "is the best argument against LAPD officials' contention that tapes can't

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be released immediately," said Earl Ofari Hutchinson of the Los Angeles Urban Policy Roundtable.

Regardless of whether the footage supports what police say, Hutchinson said, videos "must be released promptly to assure transparency and restore public trust in the impartiality and integrity of investigations."

Beck's decision followed a similar move by police in El Cajon, California, last week. The department initially released a screenshot from a video of the shooting of Alfred Olango after he pulled an electronic cigarette device from his front pocket and assumed what police called a "shooting stance" while pointing it at an officer.

They later released the full video of the shooting, citing the need to quell escalating protests and violence.

Police in Charlotte, North Carolina, also recently released snippets of recordings of the shooting death of Keith Lamont Scott, which had led to violent protests.

Many police departments have good reasons to keep videos from the public, said Louis Dekmar, vice president of the International Association of Chiefs of Police and chief of the LaGrange Police Department in Georgia.

He said releasing videos can compromise investigations in a number of ways, including tainting witness and officer memories.

And videos don't always tell the full story, like in Snell's shooting.

"Video is helpful but it's not absolute," Dekmar said, adding that his department's policy is to generally release videos if doing so won't compromise investigations.

Snell was shot after officers tried to pull over a car he was in because it had paper license plates that didn't match the year of the vehicle. Snell jumped out and ran, and a chase followed, police said.

During the portion of the chase not captured on the video, police say Snell turned toward officers while holding a gun.

Officers fired three shots that missed Snell, who then climbed a fence and turned again toward the officers while holding the gun, police said. Police fired three more times, hitting Snell in the torso and knee and killing him.

## Chicago council approves Emanuel's plan for police probes

By **DON BABWIN** and **MICHAEL TARM**, Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — The Chicago City Council on Wednesday approved Mayor Rahm Emanuel's plan to create a new agency to investigate police shootings and misconduct allegations even as critics — some on the council — say it's not strong enough to closely watch a police force long dogged by a reputation for brutality and covering up misdeeds of officers.

Over the objections of some aldermen and several people in the audience who angrily shouted their displeasure, the council voted 39-8 to form a new agency to investigate the police force called the Civilian Office of Police Accountability and create a new deputy inspector whose job will be to monitor the department.

"Obviously, Chicago ain't ready for reform," said Alderwoman Leslie Hairston, who voted against the plan after complaining that it won't have enough funding and independence from City Hall.

She said the new agency is "not what many community organizations and activists want" and that it's not any more transparent than the Independent Police Review Authority, which was discredited by long delays in completing investigations that almost always sided with officers.

But Emanuel echoed several aldermen, saying the plan is not perfect but a significant step in a city where faith in the Police Department was shattered last year by a video showing a white police officer fatally shoot black teenager Laquan McDonald in 2014 and allegations that officers tried to cover up what happened.

"I consider this to be the beginning of a journey, not the end," said the mayor, who fired Police Superintendent Garry McCarthy in the wake of the video that showed 17-year-old McDonald being shot 16 times.

Emanuel, who is now waiting for the U.S. Department of Justice to finish investigating the Police Department, credited the move with being the latest example of the city's willingness to reform the department. He pointed to changes in officer training, officers being equipped with body cameras and a policy that calls

for the release of videos like the McDonald one, which the city refused to put out until a judge's order.

The new agency will investigate shootings, incidents when officers used stun guns, allegations of physical and psychological coercion of witnesses by officers, as well as allegations that officers conducted improper searches or denied access to attorneys for people suspected of crimes. And the agency would have to complete its investigations within six months or offer an explanation to the mayor and others.

The agency can't hire anyone who has been a Chicago police officer within the last five years as an investigator — an effort to satisfy reform advocates who worried that people who were recently on the force might not aggressively investigate officers.

Critics also singled out a part of the plan that calls for the new agency to hire attorneys from a list of at least five law firms previously approved by the city's law department.

Hairston wondered how attorneys who owe their jobs to the law department could be trusted to do work that is not influenced by the law department.

Activists had harsh words for Emanuel's decision to put off the creation of a new civilian board that would help select a new head of the Civilian Office of Police Accountability. Emanuel and others said more community input is needed and that an ordinance for the board will go before the City Council next year.

The vote for the new police accountability agency comes as other cities around the country — also often under pressure — deal with creating or strengthening similar agencies. But while it is too soon to say if it will be effective, Samuel Walker, who teaches criminal justice at the University of Nebraska at Omaha and has researched police oversight boards nationwide, said he was impressed with some components of Chicago's new accountability structures.

Walker praised Chicago for following Los Angeles in setting up a deputy inspector or inspector general post dedicated to police accountability, saying that's crucial.

## **Regulators expand protections to prepaid debit card users**

**By KEN SWEET, AP Business Writer**

NEW YORK (AP) — Federal regulators announced new rules Wednesday governing the quickly growing prepaid debit card industry, an effort more than two years in the making which should bring basic account protections to its customers, who are often financially disadvantaged.

Prepaid debit card issuers will have to provide their users with basic account information like balances and transaction history free of charge to customers. Protections for lost or stolen cards will also be expanded to prepaid debit cards. Fees for the cards will have to be more clearly disclosed on the packaging.

"Before today ... many of these products lacked strong consumer protections under federal law," Richard Cordray, director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, said in a prepared statement. "Our new rule closes loopholes and protects prepaid consumers when they swipe their card, shop online, or scan their smartphone."

Once a product whose only purpose was to function as a gift card, prepaid debit cards have become increasingly popular over the last 15 years and have effectively replaced a traditional checking account for millions of Americans. Roughly \$65 billion was loaded onto prepaid cards in 2012, the most recent year for which data are available. That's more than double the amount loaded in 2009, only three years before. The amount loaded is expected to double again by 2018.

Sold in most grocery or convenience stores, the cards are largely used by lower income Americans, who are statistically more likely to be young, a racial minority and likely to earn less than \$25,000 a year, according to the Pew Charitable Trusts.

As the industry has grown, it has had more than its fair share of controversy. Early prepaid cards carried extremely high monthly fees, even sometimes fees to load money onto a card. The RushCard, a card backed by hip-hop mogul Russell Simmons, suffered a massive technical glitch a year ago that locked more than a hundred thousand customers out of their funds, sometimes for weeks.

The industry's missteps have allowed more traditional banks and financial services companies to come out with their own prepaid cards, including JPMorgan Chase and American Express.

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The industry did win one significant concession. The CFPB will allow prepaid debit cards issuers to provide overdraft services, which would legitimize a small, controversial part of the prepaid debit card industry. Only 2 percent of all prepaid debit cards allow for their customers to overdraft, according to the National Consumer Law Center. With the CFPB's blessing, that percentage will likely expand.

Consumer advocates had been pushing hard to ban overdraft in prepaid cards, arguing that many prepaid customers used the card specifically to avoid being exposed to overdraft. But by making overdraft available, it makes prepaid debit cards nearly synonymous in their features as traditional checking accounts.

The new rules go into effect October 1st, 2017.

"Research shows many consumers turn to prepaid cards to control spending and to avoid overdraft fees. Moving forward, we strongly encourage the bureau to rein in these harmful fees for checking accounts, the most widely used financial product in the U.S.," said Nick Bourke, director of consumer finance at Pew Charitable Trusts.

Industry reaction to the finalized rules was mixed. Green Dot, the largest provider of pre-paid cards, said they "embrace" the new regulations and that the new rules provide a more "level playing field" for card issuers compared to traditional checking accounts.

The Network Branded Prepaid Card Association, the lobby group for the larger industry, expressed some concern saying the rules could burden the industry with more regulation, particularly smaller issuers of prepaid cards.

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Ken Sweet covers banking and consumer financial issues for The Associated Press. Follow him on Twitter at @kensweet.

## 3 win Nobel chemistry prize for world's tiniest machines

By MALCOLM RITTER and KARL RITTER, Associated Press

Three scientists won a Nobel Prize in chemistry Wednesday for advances in a field that has big hopes for very tiny machines — the smallest ever built.

Frenchman Jean-Pierre Sauvage, Scottish-born Fraser Stoddart and Dutch scientist Bernard "Ben" Feringa were honored for making devices the size of molecules, so tiny that a lineup of 1,000 would stretch about the width of a human hair.

Someday, experts say, such devices might lead to benefits like better computer chips and batteries, and tiny shuttles that could be injected into patients to deliver drugs directly to infections and tumors. But that's a long ways away.

"There are not big applications looming up tomorrow," Stoddart, 74, a professor at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, who became a U.S. citizen in 2011, told The Associated Press.

"I applaud the fact that for once in chemistry Stockholm has recognized a piece of chemistry that is extremely fundamental in its making and being," he later told a news conference.

Feringa, 65, is a professor of organic chemistry at the University of Groningen, the Netherlands. Sauvage, 71, is professor emeritus at the University of Strasbourg and director of research emeritus at France's National Center for Scientific Research.

The three men share the 8 million kronor (\$930,000) prize, having "taken chemistry to a new dimension," the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said.

Stoddart said when he got the phone call from Stockholm to tell him he had won, he initially suspected a hoax. When told he was sharing the prize with "two very good friends ... I could relax."

Speaking to the French TV channel itele, Sauvage called the news a memorable moment and a big surprise.

"I have won many prizes, but the Nobel Prize is something very special. It's the most prestigious prize, the one most scientists don't even dare to dream of in their wildest dreams," he said.

Feringa told reporters in Stockholm by phone, "I feel a little bit like the Wright brothers, who were flying 100 years ago for the first time and then people were saying, 'Why do we need a flying machine?' And

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now we have a Boeing 747 and an Airbus. So that is a bit how I feel.”

The academy said Sauvage made the first breakthrough in 1983 when he linked two ring-shaped molecules together in such a way that they could move in relation to each other. Moving parts are key to a machine, the academy said.

Stoddart took the next step in 1991 by threading a molecular ring onto a molecular axle and showing the ring could move back and forth. By 1994, he could completely control that movement. His group later built a tiny elevator-like machine and an artificial muscle.

Feringa built the first molecular motor in 1999, a molecule that could be made to spin in just one direction. He leads a research group that in 2011 built a “nanocar,” a minuscule vehicle with four molecular motors as wheels.

The academy said the laureates’ work has inspired other researchers to build increasingly advanced molecular machinery, including a robot that can grasp and connect amino acids, the building blocks of proteins.

Dean Astumian, a physics professor at U of Maine in Orono, stressed that the field is still very young, rather like when people first had the lever and the wheel.

At first, they combined those tools in simple ways to do simple tasks, but over time they learned to assemble them in ever-more complicated ways to do increasingly dramatic things, he said.

As for molecular machines, “I think we are at the point where people have put together the levers and the wheels in simple ways at present. But partly as a result of the awarding of the prize in this area, he said, it’s going to take off,” with the creation of more complicated and useful devices.

Donna Nelson, president of the American Chemical Society, agreed that Wednesday’s prize will generate attention for the field.

And given the topic, “children are going to love it,” she said. “They’re the scientists of tomorrow.”

The chemistry prize was the last of this year’s science awards. The medicine prize went to a Japanese biologist who discovered the process by which a cell breaks down and recycles content. The physics prize was shared by three British-born scientists for theoretical discoveries that shed light on strange states of matter.

The Nobel Peace Prize will be announced on Friday, and the economics and literature awards will be announced next week.

The Nobel Prizes will be handed out at ceremonies in Stockholm and Oslo on Dec. 10, the anniversary of prize founder Alfred Nobel’s death in 1896.

Nobel, the inventor of dynamite, wanted his awards to honor achievements that delivered the “greatest benefit to mankind.”

Malcolm Ritter reported from New York. Karl Ritter reported from Stockholm. Keith Moore in Stockholm, Samuel Petrequin in Paris, Malcolm Ritter in New York and Caryn Rousseau in Chicago contributed to this report.

## Pence’s ‘Mexican thing’ remark draws ridicule from Latinos

By RUSSELL CONTRERAS and AMY TAXIN, Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — Latino scholars and activists are criticizing Republican Mike Pence for referring to “that Mexican thing,” at the vice presidential debate as he tried to brush aside criticism of Donald Trump’s comments about Mexican immigrants.

They said Pence’s remark was dehumanizing and tinged with sexual innuendo.

Pence’s comment came after Democratic vice presidential Tim Kaine pressed the Republican on Trump’s remarks last year comparing Mexican immigrants to rapists.

“Senator, you whipped out that Mexican thing again,” Pence said.

By Wednesday, #ThatMexicanThing was trending on Twitter as Latinos widely made fun of the remark with memes, gifs, and satirical versions of Trump’s “Make America Great Again” red cap.

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"Proud to be 'that Mexican thing!'" Javier Martinez, a New Mexico Democratic lawmaker, tweeted Wednesday.

There was no immediate comment from the Trump-Pence campaign about criticism of Pence's remark. The campaign has been trying to increase its appeal to Latinos and other minorities who tend to favor Democrats and could prove pivotal in key states, including Florida.

Mexican-American syndicated cartoonist Lalo Alcaraz said the moment the words came out of Pence's mouth "I knew it was going to be big."

Alcaraz drew a cartoon of a Latino man holding a card that read, "my vote." Above the man read the words: whip out that Mexican thing again.

Some Latinos, however, saw little humor in Pence's remarks.

A leading House Democrat, Rep. Xavier Becerra of California, said Pence's words brought back painful memories.

"As the son of immigrants, I've lived with the 'Mexican thing' all my life," Becerra told The Associated Press. "I never would have believed that into my 50s I would witness a candidate for president and vice president mainstreaming the same hurtful rhetoric."

A top state lawmaker in California, Kevin de Leon, said Pence's remarks were "absolutely disgraceful."

"He said it like we're an irritant, (like) he is bothered by our presence and our contribution to the fabric of this great nation," said de Leon, whose mother grew up in Mexico.

Pence's words also led to the creation of a web address, ThatMexicanThing.com, that redirects visitors to Hillary Clinton's campaign website.

In addition, the Latino voting rights advocacy group VL Action Network registered the web address, [www.thatmexicanthing.org](http://www.thatmexicanthing.org), "to drive eligible voters to register to vote against the scapegoating and complete dismissal of the Latino community."

Alexandro Jose Gradilla, a Chicana and Chicano Studies professor at California State University, Fullerton, said the way Pence used the word "Mexican" and "thing" seemed to suggest Mexican-Americans were objects, not people. "It was very revealing, especially because of the way Trump has used the word 'Mexican' in the past," Gradilla said.

Some see the word "Mexican" as going beyond describing a nationality and sometimes being used as a slur against U.S.-born Latinos.

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Associated Press writer Amy Taxin contributed to this report from Santa Ana, California.

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Follow Russell Contreras on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/ruscontreras>. His work can be found at <http://bigstory.ap.org/content/russell-contreras>.

## Arm transplant recipient says he can now hold fiancée's hand

BOSTON (AP) — A former Marine sergeant who underwent a double arm transplant said Wednesday that the best part about having arms again is that he can hold his fiancée's hand and pursue his lifelong dream of becoming a chef.

Retired Sgt. John Peck, who lost all four limbs as the result of an explosion of a homemade bomb in Afghanistan in May 2010, underwent 14 hours of surgery at Brigham and Women's Hospital in August. The procedure involved 60 doctors, nurses and other medical personnel.

His arms are scarred and move awkwardly, but every day with the new limbs is better, he said at a news conference at the hospital. He is learning to dress himself, brush his teeth and feed himself all over again.

The first time he held fiancée Jessica Paker's hand after the surgery, he couldn't even feel it, but it still meant the world.

"That truly is a special gift," he said, adding later that he can now feel pressure when she squeezes.

Peck, 31, will probably need nine to 12 months of rehabilitation before the nerves are fully functional again, said Dr. Simon Talbot, the lead surgeon.



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Peck, originally from Antioch, Illinois, now lives in Fredericksburg, Virginia. He said he's wanted to be a chef since he was 12.

"As a result of surgery, I'll be able to pursue my dreams," he said. He's already started cooking but because he doesn't have full feeling in the new limbs, he has to be careful he doesn't cut or burn himself. He plans to visit France and Italy to hone his craft, he said.

Peck also thanked the donor, whose family wishes to remain anonymous.

"I will remember his selflessness and gift until the day I die," he said.

According to Johns Hopkins Medicine, hand and arm transplants have been performed on more than 85 people around the world. This was the fourth double arm or hand transplant performed at Brigham and Women's.

## Russia suspends cooperative nuclear research deal with US

MOSCOW (AP) — Russia has suspended an agreement with the United States on research cooperation in the nuclear and energy sectors, the latest move underlining worsening tensions between Washington and Moscow.

A suspension decree signed by Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev was posted Wednesday on the government website, which said the decree was a "countermeasure" to U.S. sanctions imposed over Russia's role in the Ukraine conflict.

The impact of the move is likely to be less serious than Russia's suspension Monday of an agreement on disposal of weapons-grade plutonium. That agreement had been seen as a symbol of US-Russian rapprochement.

The strain in Moscow-Washington relations over Ukraine has intensified in recent weeks amid the collapse of a cease-fire in Syria and the Syrian army's assault on the city of Aleppo under cover of Russian warplanes.

State Department spokesman Mark Toner said the U.S. has not received notification of the suspension, but "would regret the Russian decision to unilaterally suspend cooperation on what we believe is a very important issue that's in the interests of both our countries."

## Security Council agrees on Portugal's Guterres next UN chief

By EDITH M. LEDERER, Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Portugal's former prime minister Antonio Guterres won the Security Council's unanimous backing Wednesday to become the next U.N. secretary-general, winning plaudits for his strong leadership but disappointing campaigners for a woman or East European to be the world's top diplomat for the first time.

The veteran politician and diplomat, who served as the U.N.'s refugee chief until December, topped all six informal polls in the council after his performance in the first-ever question-and-answer sessions in the 193-member General Assembly, which received high marks from almost every diplomat.

Britain's U.N. Ambassador Matthew Rycroft said the assembly hearings showed that Guterres "was an outstanding candidate ... who will take the United Nations to the next level in terms of leadership" and will provide "a moral authority at a time when the world is divided on issues, above all like Syria."

Russia's U.N. Ambassador Vitaly Churkin, the current Security Council president, appeared before reporters surrounded by the 14 other council ambassadors after the sixth informal poll of the 10 remaining candidates was held behind closed doors saying: "You are witnessing, I think, a historic scene."

Churkin then thanked all the candidates saying they displayed "a lot of wisdom, understanding and concern for the fate of the world" and announced: "We have a clear favorite, and his name is Antonio Guterres."

He said the Security Council would hold a formal vote on Thursday morning and expressed hope that the council will recommend Guterres by "acclamation" to the 193-member General Assembly, which must approve a successor to Ban Ki-moon whose second five-year term ends on Dec. 31.

By tradition, the job of secretary-general has rotated among regions. Asia, Africa, Latin America and

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Europe have all held the post. East European nations, including Russia, argue that they have never had a secretary-general and it was their turn. There has also never been a woman secretary-general and more than 50 nations and many others campaigned to elect the first female U.N. chief.

There was disappointment among East Europeans, who fielded many candidates in the race but never united behind one, and among supporters hoping for a woman. Seven of the 13 candidates who entered the race were women.

Antonia Kirkland, program manager for Equality Now, which has campaigned for a woman secretary-general since 1996, said: "While it is disappointing that a man has once again been proposed by the U.N. Security Council as secretary-general, we are at least hopeful that he will continue the feminist agenda."

She said this should include "first of all, ensuring gender parity among his staff at the Secretariat, and also prioritizing violence and discrimination against women as a pivotal issue."

Christiana Figueres of Costa Rica, the U.N. official who played a key role in shaping last December's historic agreement to fight climate change and one of three candidates who dropped out of the race, tweeted: "Bittersweet results #NextSG. Bitter: not a woman. Sweet: by far the best man in the race. Congrats Antonio Guterres! We are all with you."

In the fifth "straw" poll on Sept. 28, Guterres received two "discourage" votes and there was a lot of speculation about whether Russia would support him.

The sixth poll on Wednesday morning was considered key because it was the first to use colored ballots to distinguish the votes of the five veto-wielding Security Council members — the United States, Russia, China, Britain and France.

"The permanent members had red ballots and the non-permanent members had white ballots," Britain's Rycroft told reporters later.

He said "the crucial moment" for him was the announcement of the result of the fifth permanent member which showed Guterres had no "discourage" votes from any council member.

In that final vote, Guterres had 13 "encourage" votes, no "discourage" votes and two "no opinions." He was the only candidate to top the required nine "encourage" votes and no "discourage" vote from a permanent member.

Far behind in second place was Slovakia's Foreign Minister Miroslav Lajcak with a vote of 7-6-2 including two "discourage" votes from permanent members. Serbia's former foreign minister Vuk Jeremic had the same result but three "discourage" votes from permanent members.

The highest-ranked woman, UNESCO chief Irina Bokova of Bulgaria, was fourth. Bulgaria's Prime Minister Boiko Borisov dropped the government's support for Bokova last week in favor of European commissioner Kristalina Georgieva, who came in seventh.

The 1 for 7 Billion Campaign, which lobbied for greater openness, inclusivity and meritocracy in the selection of the new secretary-general, called Guterres' top showing "a triumph" for its goals.

"He was 'wrong' in terms of gender and region, but was widely considered to have done well in his General Assembly dialogue and in other events, with many commenting on his experience and ability to inspire," said campaign co-founder Natalie Samarasinghe.

U.S. Ambassador Samantha Power praised the "much more transparent process" of selecting a new U.N. chief and said Guterres' "breakthrough" was his performance in the General Assembly and his experience.

"I think this is a day of unity," she said. "In the end there was just a candidate whose experience, vision and versatility across a range of areas proved compelling and it was remarkably uncontentious, uncontroversial."

## Paisley Park visitors will see Prince's studio and mementoes

CHANHASSEN, Minn. (AP) — Prince's handwritten notes still sit out in the control room of Studio A at Paisley Park, where he recorded some of his greatest hits and was working on a jazz album before he died. The room is filled with his keyboards and guitars, and his iconic symbol graces the control panel.

Those are some of the highlights visitors to Paisley Park will see when the 65,000-square-foot studio

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complex, where Prince died of an accidental painkiller overdose in April, opens for the first public tours Thursday, NBC's "Today" show reported from the museum Wednesday (<http://on.today.com/2dSnhQX> ).

It will open under a temporary permit Thursday — and only two other dates for which tickets had already been sold — instead of daily as originally planned, after city council members in the Minneapolis suburb of Chanhassen delayed action on rezoning because of concerns about public safety and traffic. It's unclear when the museum will be allowed to begin full-scale tour operations, but the council said it would vote on the issue again "on or before" Dec. 20.

Graceland Holdings, which runs Elvis Presley's Graceland in Memphis, Tennessee, is managing the museum for the Prince estate.

When tours begin, fans entering the Purple Rain room will see the script, guitar and a motorcycle that Prince rode in the 1984 movie of the same name. The Oscar that he won for music in the movie is displayed in that room, and the movie will play on one wall.

Prince kept nearly all of his custom-made outfits — about 6,000 pieces of clothing and 1,000 pairs of shoes — and many are on display.

Hallways lined with gold records and other awards guide visitors to the NPG Music Club, where Prince entertained friends and perform for small groups. Private living quarters are off-limits.

NBC's reports made no reference to Prince's remains. But Frank Wheaton, an attorney for Prince's half brother, Alfred Jackson, told The Associated Press that artifacts on display will include Prince's ashes in an urn.

One of Prince's older sisters told NBC that her brother's energy and spirit is evident in the exhibit.

"It's truly Prince. He thought all this through," Norrine Nelson said. "He had a vision and he finished it."

Prince's younger sister, Tyka Nelson, said she hopes visitors will come away with a very personal experience.

"I want them to maybe feel like maybe they saw Prince up close," she said. "Sometimes when you're a fan, you get to only to see them from a seat, but this way, you're almost face-to-face with him."

## For Clinton, election likely to be won or lost in October

By **JULIE PACE** and **HOPE YEN**, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Each night, Hillary Clinton's data experts head to a conference room on the 11th floor of her Brooklyn headquarters, to start counting votes.

The sessions in the "early voter boiler room," as it's been dubbed by campaign aides, stretch into the early hours of the morning. The team pores over turnout patterns in states where advance voting is already underway, projects how many votes Clinton and Republican Donald Trump have already received, and updates crucial targeting lists of the voters she still needs.

For Clinton, October is when she's likely to win or lose the election, not Nov. 8. By the third week of this month, Clinton's campaign hopes to have a solid enough sample of the early vote to know whether the Democrat is on track to win the White House.

"Many battleground states are already voting so every day is Election Day," said Matt Dover, Clinton's voter analytics director.

In several competitive states, including North Carolina, Iowa, Colorado, Florida and Nevada, at least 45 percent of the total vote is expected to come in early. Initial metrics show good news for Clinton in North Carolina, a must-win state for Trump. There are modestly positive signs for the Republican in Iowa, but that's a state the Democrat can likely afford to lose.

The Republican National Committee, which oversees early voting and turnout operations for Trump, is also encouraging supporters to take advantage of opportunities to cast ballots before Nov. 8. The party has significantly stepped up its analytics and voter targeting operations since being outmatched by Democrats in the past two presidential elections, but the 2016 race is the first test of its strength in a national election.

Despite improvements, the RNC system was always intended to be a complement to whatever operations the eventual GOP nominee brought to the table. Trump arrived in the general election with intense

enthusiasm among his core supporters but few ways to harness it into trackable voter data.

Unlike Clinton, whose travel schedule is being built around voter registration deadlines and the start of early voting in key states, Trump's battleground stops haven't been pegged to those benchmarks. However, there is a noticeably more robust registration effort at Trump rallies and the candidate himself is making explicit early voting appeals to supporters.

"Get those ballots in because the only way this is going to be taken away (is) if we're foolish or if we let people take it away from us," Trump said Monday during a rally in Colorado. "I hate to interrupt my speech with these minor details but they're very important, right?"

Republicans traditionally do well initially with mail-in absentee balloting before Democrats surpass them during in-person early voting. That makes the start of in-person voting a key indicator as to whether core Democratic constituencies, such as young people and non-whites, show up.

"For me, voting early is a matter of convenience, and if I don't do it I'm unlikely to vote at all," said Joseph Wozniak, 23, of Macon, Georgia. A recent college graduate who declined to say who he is supporting in the election, Wozniak is working on early vote efforts for the non-partisan organization Democracy Works.

Thirty-seven states allow voting with little restriction before Election Day, either in person or via mail. By the third week in October, 34 of those states will be voting.

Iowa was the first of the battlegrounds to start in-person voting last Thursday. Of the 39,435 people who have cast ballots, 58 percent were Democrats and 25 percent were Republicans — but that was much closer than in 2012.

In North Carolina, buoyed by strong voter interest, Clinton appears to hold an edge with Democratic ballots submitted so far currently leading Republican ones, 40 to 35 percent. At this point in 2012, Republicans had opened a wide lead over Democrats in ballots, due in part to strong support among older whites.

For 2016, Clinton officials pointed in particular to a 13 percent increase in African-American and a 40 percent jump in Latino mail-in ballot requests. To them, it's a hopeful sign that non-whites and young people will be engaged this election, part of a shift in campaign strategy to more strongly mobilize less reliable, sporadic voters first. Still, the campaign said it will have a much clearer picture once in-person voting begins in the state on Oct. 20.

Similarly in Florida, absentee balloting began only Tuesday, but already more than 2.5 million people — nearly one-third of the total number of votes cast in 2012 — have requested ballots. In-person voting doesn't begin until Oct. 24, so state Democrats are now strongly urging voters to vote by mail — including in a letter from President Barack Obama paid for by the party.

"In Florida, voting is easier than ever because now you can vote by mail," he writes. "It's the fastest and most convenient way to make your voice heard."

In Obama's historic 2008 race, he ran up such big early voting advantages in four battlegrounds — Colorado, Florida, Iowa and North Carolina — that his rival, John McCain, couldn't catch up, despite winning the Election Day vote in those states, according to AP data.

If all goes according to the Clinton campaign's plan, early ballots soon enough will start to unequivocally point in the same direction.

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AP writer Jonathan Lemire contributed to this report.

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Follow Julie Pace at <http://twitter.com/jpaceDC> and Hope Yen at <http://twitter.com/hopeyen1>

## **Syria's military to reduce airstrikes for Aleppo evacuations**

**By PHILIP ISSA and JAMEY KEATEN, Associated Press**

BEIRUT (AP) — Syria's military command said it would scale back its bombardment of the contested city of Aleppo on Wednesday to allow civilians to evacuate besieged rebel-held neighborhoods.

The announcement, broadcast on state TV, followed 16 days of airstrikes and shelling that have killed over 300 civilians and damaged hospitals and water facilities. Satellite images released Wednesday by the

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U.N. show the scale of the destruction since a U.S.-Russia brokered cease-fire collapsed two weeks ago. The government is accused by opponents and international observers of using violence to forcibly depopulate areas seen as disloyal to Syrian President Bashar Assad.

"The government has used scorched earth tactics against us, and then blesses us with an opportunity to leave? Of course this is refused," said Ammar Sakkar, the military spokesman of the Fastiqum rebel faction inside east Aleppo.

Doctors inside the city's besieged eastern neighborhoods said there were fewer attacks on Wednesday, after two weeks of airstrikes in which Russian and Syrian government jets targeted underground hospitals with bunker-busting bombs.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said 316 civilians in eastern Aleppo have been killed in the past two weeks' violence. U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has described conditions in eastern Aleppo, where 275,000 people are trapped under a government siege, as "worse than a slaughterhouse."

The government has insisted, however, that rebels inside east Aleppo have been preventing civilians from leaving via the safe corridors it demarcated in July with the Russian military. It says hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of displaced people have fled to areas of government control across the country.

Earlier this year, the Syrian government negotiated the complete evacuation of Daraya, once an opposition hub on the outskirts of Damascus, after four years of siege left residents with no food or medical care. The U.N. likened the arrangement to "forced displacement" and warned it could not be a precedent for other areas.

The U.N.'s satellite imagery program released images it said showed the most recent destruction to eastern parts of Aleppo.

"Since the cease-fire has broken down, you certainly see an awful lot of new damage," said Lars Bromley, a research adviser at UNOSAT.

The images, from DigitalGlobe and obtained by the U.N. agency through a licensing arrangement with the U.S. State Department, show mostly "formerly blasted and blown-up areas" during Syria's 5-1/2-year war "experiencing a great deal of additional damage," said Bromley.

"To a certain extent you're looking at rubble being pushed around," he told reporters.

At the White House, spokesman Josh Earnest called the images "deeply troubling." But he added that it "tragically is not particularly surprising."

"Ordinarily you would be heartbroken to learn that this was the result of some sort of accident. But it's clear that the Syrian regime —backed by the Russians — is engaged in a strategy of bombing those civilians intentionally to try to get them to bend to the will of the Assad regime," he said.

The images primarily consist of before-and-after pictures from mid to late September showing the destruction of buildings, including houses, after the short-lived cease-fire broke down. Several images are from northern Aleppo neighborhoods, where government forces have advanced against rebel fighters who are battling back.

Some of the images depict large craters, a "signature" that airstrikes have done the damage. Artillery or mortar fire creates a different pattern of destruction, Bromley said.

The U.N. satellite images could provide significant insights in the aftermath of high-profile, disputed attacks — such as a deadly attack on a U.N.-backed humanitarian aid convoy west of Aleppo last month.

The top U.S. military officer, Marine Gen. Joseph Dunford, told a Senate committee last week that he believes Russia bombed the convoy and said Syrian and Russian aircraft were in the area at the time. Russia and Syria have denied that they were responsible for the strike, with Russia saying the damage was caused by a cargo fire.

"With our analysis, we determined that it was an airstrike," Bromley said.

UNOSAT appeared to backtrack slightly on that late Wednesday. Program chief Einar Bjorgo said satellite images were an indication of a "possible air strike, however the situation on the ground, the damage that has been caused, it is quite complex and we cannot be completely conclusive that it is an airstrike."

"But there are indicators leaning towards that," he said

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The convoy organizers had obtained necessary clearances from the government and rebels as well as the Americans and Russians, who were operating aircraft in Syrian skies. The U.N. Secretary General said last week he would set up an internal U.N. board of inquiry to investigate the Sept. 19 convoy attack.

Also on Wednesday, a Syria monitoring group and a Kurdish news agency said overnight airstrikes, suspected to be Turkish, hit a village in northern Syria, killing at least 18 civilians, including three children.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said that at least 19 people were killed, including three children, in the attack on the majority Kurdish village of Thulthana, in northern Aleppo, several miles away from where Turkish-backed rebels have been advancing. The village is in an area controlled by IS militants.

The Hawar news agency in the semi-autonomous Kurdish areas of Syria said 18 were killed, among them six children. It said the attack happened around midnight Tuesday.

There was no immediate comment from Ankara. Earlier Wednesday, Turkish military officials reported it had pushed the Islamic State group out of four residential areas south of the town of al-Rai, several miles from Thulthana village. It said two Syrian opposition fighters, a Turkish soldier and 23 IS fighters were killed in the clashes.

Separately, a Turkish soldier was killed and three others were lightly wounded in fighting in the opposition-held area of Ziyara, which a group of IS militants tried to infiltrate.

The Turkish military launched an offensive inside Syria in August, backing Syrian rebels, to push Islamic State group militants from its borders and curb the advances of Syrian Kurdish forces, which it sees as an extension of its own outlawed Kurdish rebels.

Keaten reported from Geneva. Associated Press writers Sarah El Deeb in Beirut and Susan Frazer in Ankara contributed to this report.

## Asian shares climb, yen weakens on upbeat US services data

By KELVIN CHAN, AP Business Writer

HONG KONG (AP) — Asian stocks posted modest gains and the dollar strengthened further against the yen Thursday as a healthy U.S. economic report and rising oil prices overnight bolstered investor optimism.

KEEPING SCORE: Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 index climbed 0.7 percent to 16,934.32 and South Korea's Kospi gained 0.2 percent to 2,058.13. Hong Kong's Hang Seng added 0.5 percent to 23,912.62 and Australia's S&P/ASX 200 rose 0.4 percent to 5,472.00. Singapore's benchmark rose but those in Taiwan and New Zealand fell. Markets in mainland China were closed for a weeklong holiday.

SERVICE SECTOR: Activity at U.S. service companies expanded in September at the fastest pace in nearly a year, according to a private report. The Institute for Supply Management's services index jumped to 57.1 last month, its highest since October last year, adding to evidence that the world's biggest economy is strengthening and raising expectations the Federal Reserve will soon raise rates from ultralow levels. The services report and a similar manufacturing index earlier this week were both surprisingly strong after weak readings the month before.

MARKET VIEW: The weakness in the August service and factory indexes "does now look to have been only been a temporary blip," said Angus Nicholson of IG Markets in Melbourne. "The path to a December rate rise from the Fed is looking increasingly comfortable."

ENERGY: Oil prices eased after rising to their highest in three months. U.S. benchmark crude oil futures shed 30 cents to \$49.53 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract rose \$1.14, or 2.3 percent, to settle at \$49.83 a barrel. Brent crude, the international standard, gained lost 30 cents to \$51.56 a barrel in London

CURRENCIES: The dollar eased to 103.41 yen from 103.50, as it hovered near a one-month high against the Japanese currency fueled by the Fed rate cut outlook. The euro slipped to \$1.1204 from \$1.1210.

WALL STREET: Major U.S. benchmarks finished higher. The Dow Jones industrial average climbed 0.6 percent to 18,281.03. The Standard & Poor's 500 index gained 0.4 percent to 2,159.73. The Nasdaq composite rose 0.5 percent to 5,316.02.

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## Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Thursday, Oct. 6, the 280th day of 2016. There are 86 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 6, 1976, President Gerald R. Ford, in his second presidential debate with Democrat Jimmy Carter, asserted that there was "no Soviet domination of eastern Europe." (Ford later conceded such was not the case.)

On this date:

In 1683, thirteen families from Krefeld, Germany, arrived in Philadelphia to begin Germantown, one of America's oldest settlements.

In 1884, the Naval War College was established in Newport, Rhode Island.

In 1891, Charles Stewart Parnell, the "Uncrowned King of Ireland," died in Brighton, Sussex, England.

In 1927, the era of talking pictures arrived with the opening of "The Jazz Singer" starring Al Jolson, a movie featuring both silent and sound-synchronized sequences.

In 1939, in a speech to the Reichstag, German Chancellor Adolf Hitler spoke of his plans to reorder the ethnic layout of Europe — a plan which would entail settling the "Jewish problem."

In 1949, U.S.-born Iva Toguri D'Aquino, convicted of treason for being Japanese wartime broadcaster "Tokyo Rose," was sentenced in San Francisco to 10 years in prison (she ended up serving more than six).

In 1958, the nuclear submarine USS Seawolf surfaced after spending 60 days submerged.

In 1960, the historical drama "Spartacus," starring Kirk Douglas and directed by Stanley Kubrick, had its world premiere in New York.

In 1973, war erupted in the Middle East as Egypt and Syria launched a surprise attack on Israel during the Yom Kippur holiday. (Israel, initially caught off-guard, suffered heavy losses before rebounding and pushing back the Arab forces before a cease-fire finally took hold in the nearly three-week conflict.)

In 1979, Pope John Paul II, on a week-long U.S. tour, became the first pontiff to visit the White House, where he was received by President Jimmy Carter.

In 1981, Egyptian President Anwar Sadat was shot to death by extremists while reviewing a military parade.

In 1989, actress Bette Davis died in Neuilly-sur-Seine (nu-yee-sur-sehn), France, at age 81.

Ten years ago: The U.N. Security Council adopted a statement warning North Korea of unspecified consequences if it carried out a nuclear test. Petty Officer 3rd Class Melson J. Bacos, a Navy medic, pleaded guilty to kidnapping and conspiracy, telling his court-martial at Camp Pendleton, California, that he stood and watched as seven members of a Marine squadron murdered an innocent Iraqi civilian. (Bacos was sentenced to a year in military prison and was released two months early; the Marines were convicted or pleaded guilty in the killing.)

Five years ago: In a poor quality audio recording, a voice identified as that of Moammar Gadhafi called on Libyans to take to the streets and wage a campaign of civil disobedience against the country's new leader. The Nobel Prize in literature was awarded to psychologist Tomas Transtromer, Sweden's most famous poet. Actress Diane Cilento, 78, died in Cairns, Queensland, Australia.

One year ago: Gen. John F. Campbell, the top U.S. commander in Afghanistan, recommended before Congress that President Barack Obama revise his plan to cut the current U.S. force of 9,800 and keep more than 1,000 U.S. troops in the country beyond 2016. Takaaki Kajita of Japan and Arthur McDonald of Canada won the Nobel Prize in physics for key discoveries about neutrinos, a cosmic particle that whizzes through space at nearly the speed of light, passing easily through Earth and even people's bodies. Convicted killer Juan Martin Garcia was executed by Texas for fatally shooting another man in a robbery that yielded just \$8. Singer Billy Joe Royal, 73, who'd popularized the song "Down in the Boondocks" and crossed over into country music, died in Morehead City, North Carolina.

Today's Birthdays: Broadcaster and writer Melvyn Bragg is 77. Actress Britt Ekland is 74. Singer Millie

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Small is 70. The president of Sinn Fein (shin fayn), Gerry Adams, is 68. Singer-musician Thomas McClary is 67. Musician Sid McGinnis is 67. CBS chief executive officer Les Moonves is 67. Rock singer Kevin Cronin (REO Speedwagon) is 65. Rock singer-musician David Hidalgo (Los Lobos) is 62. Pro Football Hall of Famer Tony Dungy is 61. Actress Elisabeth Shue is 53. Singer Matthew Sweet is 52. Actress Jacqueline Obradors is 50. Country singer Tim Rushlow is 50. Rock musician Tommy Stinson is 50. Actress Amy Jo Johnson is 46. Actress Emily Mortimer is 45. Actor Lamman (la-MAHN') Rucker is 45. Actor Ioan Gruffudd (YOH'-ihn GRIH'-fihth) is 43. Actor Jeremy Sisto is 42. Rhythm-and-blues singer Melinda Doolittle is 39. Actor Wes Ramsey is 39. Singer-musician Will Butler is 34.

Thought for Today: "Talking comes by nature, silence by wisdom." — Author unknown.