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Wednesday, Oct. 19

School Breakfast: Cheese omelettes, fruit, juice, milk.
School Lunch: Garlic cheese bread, mixed vegetable, broccoli and dip, fruit.

Senior Menu: Baked chicken breast, mashed potatoes and gravy, California Blend Vegetables, lemon tart bar, whole wheat bread.

PSAT at Groton Area

12:30 p.m.: Sixth Grade MathCounts at Warner

3:45 pm: St. John's Lutheran Confirmation

6:30 pm: Emmanuel Lutheran League

7 p.m.: Emmanuel Lutheran Confirmation

Thursday, Oct. 20

School Breakfast: Mini pancakes, fruit, juice, milk.

School Lunch: Taco salad, tater tots, muffin, fruit.

Senior Menu: Beef stew, buttermilk biscuit, Waldorf salad, sherbet.

9 am: St. John's Lutheran Quilting

1:30 pm: Emmanuel Lutheran WELCA potluck lunch

7 p.m.: FB hosts Parkston

Friday, Oct. 21

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

School Lunch: Hamburger, French Fries, fruit, romaine salad.

Senior Menu: Ham and bean soup, egg salad sandwich, Tomato spoon salad, oatmeal raisin cookie.

End of First Quarter

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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Oven Fresh Sandwiches	Hot Desserts	Snack Melts	
11 E Hwy 12, Groton ~ 397-8627			

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Northwestern has nearly clean sweep over Groton

Northwestern won 11 of the 12 volleyball games played Tuesday at Mellette. The seventh graders won their first game, 25-19, before dropping the next two, 25-16 and 15-6. The eighth graders lost their games, 25-22 and 25-21. The C team had an exciting first game going into extra points before the Wildcats pulled it off, 30-28. Northwestern won the second game, 25-15. The Wildcats won the junior varsity match by two identical game scores of 25-15. The varsity lost its match by game scores of 25-19, 25-16 and 25-10.

In serving, Groton Area was 42 of 46 with one ace serve. Audrey Wanner was eight of nine with one ace serve.

In attacks, Groton Area was 78 of 95 with 17 kills. Audrey Wanner was 22 of 25 with five kills and Katie Koehler was 11 of 11 with three kills.

Groton Area had 33 digs with Audrey Wanner having nine and Payton Maine and Paityn Bonn each having five. Groton Area had four blocks with Taylor Holm and Jessica Bjerke each having one solo block.

The volleyball team ends its regular season on Monday with a match at Milbank Area.

Groton Coffee Cup League

Oct. 17 Team Standings

James Valley 13, Jungle Lanes 10, Ten Pins 9, Kens 8,

High Games: Vicki Walter 181, Vickie Kramp 174, Arlowyn Spencer 167

High Series: Vicki Walter 474, Vickie Kramp 471, Arlowyn Spencer 464

Conde National League

Team Standings: Giants 16, Pirates 14, Colts 13, Braves 12, Mets 9, Cubs 8.

Men's High Games: Lance Frohling 222, 206; Butch Famen 220; Bruce Hermon 201

Men's High Series: Lance Frohling 576, Butch Famen 557, Bruce Herman 523

Women's High Games: Michelle Johnson 191, Deb Fredrickson 173, Mary Larson 171

Women's High Series: Deb Fredrickson 466, Mary Larson 449, Michelle Johnson 444

Open House



Honoring
Kevin &
Julianne
Hanlon

Saturday
October 22nd
2-5 pm
Groton Legion

Couple Registered at Target & Lori's Pharmacy

Deadline approaching for disabled veteran property tax program

PIERRE, S.D.—The Nov. 1, 2016, deadline for eligible disabled veterans to apply for property tax relief is approaching.

The South Dakota Department of Revenue's Disabled Veteran's Program exempts the first \$100,000 of valuation on an eligible applicant's property. The program also applies to surviving spouses of disabled veterans if they have not remarried. Once approved, this exemption will automatically continue until the property changes ownership or is not owner occupied.

To qualify for the program, applicants must meet both of the following criteria:

- The veteran must be rated as permanently and totally disabled as a result of a service-connected disability.

- The veteran or a surviving spouse, who is not remarried, must own and occupy the property.

Applicants will be required to provide proof of their eligibility to receive the exemption, which may be obtained by calling the Sioux Falls VA Regional Office at 1-800-827-1000.

If approved, applicants will receive their first reduction in their property taxes payable in 2018. Applications can be accessed on the Department of Revenue's website or from their county director of equalization.

DOLLAR GENERAL IS HIRING!

Dollar General is a national discount retailer with over 13,000 stores employing more than 100,000 people. We offer the challenge and growth opportunities you desire. We are seeking energetic & hands-on team players to fill important roles in our stores!

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

- 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.

Dollar General Corporation is an equal opportunity employer

DOLLAR GENERAL®

Save time. Save money. Every day!

Today in Weather History

October 19, 1982: An early fall snowstorm dropped 3 to 12 inches of wet snow over the southeastern corner of South Dakota. The wet snow combined with the gusty winds of 20 to 40 mph dropped wind chills to around zero. Numerous trees snapped downing power lines. Power outages were extensive from Vermillion to Mitchell. Thunder rumbled, and lightning flashed amidst the height of the snowstorm. Almost a foot of snow fell in northern Union and southern Lincoln counties. High wind gusts knocked out television and radio transmitters in Sioux Falls. The weight of the snow collapsed a panel on the covered stadium at the University of South Dakota at Vermillion.

1844 - The famous "Lower Great Lakes Storm" occurred. Southwesterly winds were at hurricane force for five hours, driving lake waters into downtown Buffalo NY. The storm drowned 200 persons. (David Ludlum)

1961 - Rain changed to a record early season, heavy wet snow over the southern mountains of West Virginia. Leaves were still on trees, resulting in the worst forest disaster since the fires of 1952 and 953. One to two feet of snow fell near Summersville and Richwood. (19th-20th) (The Weather Channel)

1984 - Thunderstorms deluged the town of Odem, TX (located 15 miles northwest of Corpus Christi) with 25 inches of rain in just three and a half hours. Most businesses in Odem were flooded, as were 1000 homes in nearby Sinton. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - A cold front brought rainshowers to parts of the central U.S., and ushered cool Canadian air into the Great Plains Region. Daytime highs were only in the 30s in North Dakota and eastern Montana. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Thunderstorms produced high winds in eastern Colorado, with gusts to 63 mph reported at La Junta. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Record breaking snows fell across northern and central Indiana. Totals ranged up to 10.5 inches at Kokomo, and 9.3 inches was reported at Indianapolis. The 8.8 inch total at South Bend was a record for the month as a whole. Up to seven inches of snow fell in extreme southern Lower Michigan, and up to six inches fell in southwestern Ohio. The heavy wet snow downed many trees and power lines. Half the city of Cincinnati OH was without electricity during the morning hours. Temperatures dipped below freezing across much of the Great Plains Region. Twenty cities, including fourteen in Texas, reported record low temperatures for the date. North Platte NE reported a record low of 11 degrees. In Florida, four cities reported record high temperatures for the date. The record high of 92 degrees at Miami also marked a record fourteen days of 90 degree weather in October, and 116 such days for the year.



livestream

Upcoming Events

Thursday at 7 p.m.








Football

Groton Area hosts Parkston

gdilive.com

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Today	Tonight	Thursday	Thursday Night	Friday	Friday Night	Saturday
						
Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny	Mostly Clear	Sunny
High: 54 °F	Low: 33 °F	High: 53 °F	Low: 35 °F	High: 61 °F	Low: 37 °F	High: 64 °F

Cooler, with Fall-like Temperatures Today and Thursday



Highs in the 50s

Few showers possible over W and Central SD early this morning, and again tonight



National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD

weather.gov/Aberdeen



NWS Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen

Updated: 10/19/2016 5 am Central

Published on: 10/19/2016 at 5:31AM

Cooler, fall-like temperatures return today and Thursday, with highs in the 50s. This will be as high pressure continues to build south over the region. A few showers will be possible over portions of western and central South Dakota early this morning, and again tonight. The remainder of the work week looks dry and relatively mild.

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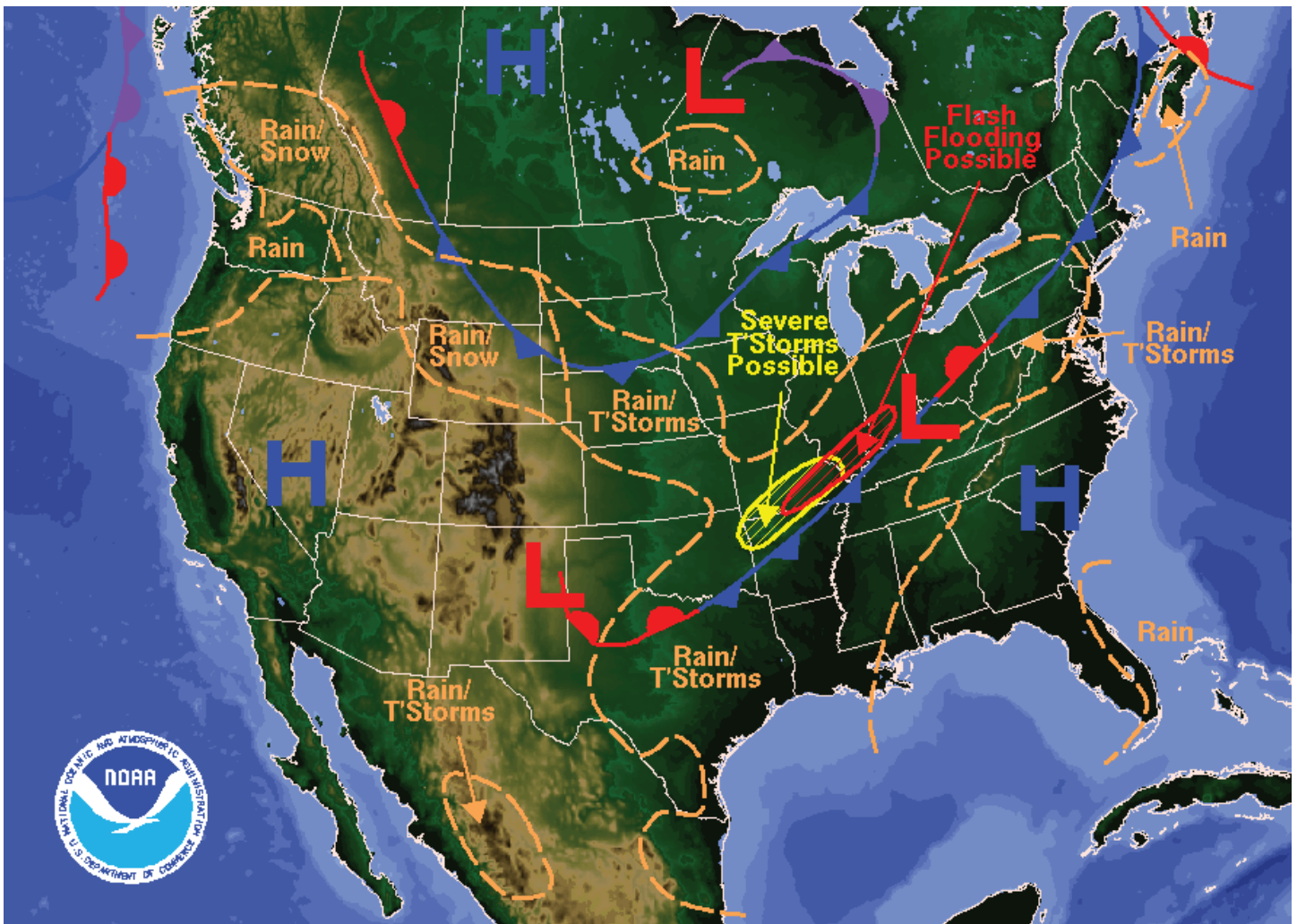
Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 64.5 F at 4:52 PM
Low Outside Temp: 41.2 F at 8:26 AM
High Gust: 19.0 Mph at 4:26 PM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 86° in 1947
Record Low: 10° in 1917
Average High: 56°F
Average Low: 32°F
Average Precip in Oct.: 1.37
Precip to date in Oct.: 0.63
Average Precip to date: 19.85
Precip Year to Date: 13.83
Sunset Tonight: 6:40 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:57 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Wed, Oct 19, 2016, issued 4:54 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McReynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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THE GAMBLERS

In the Middle Ages there was a group of men who called themselves The Gamblers. Wherever there was sickness or suffering, plagues or pestilence they would take their lives into their own hands - gamble against all odds - that they could help others. They willingly gambled with their lives for the good of others.

But they were not the first to do this. The Apostle Paul talks about one of his co-workers: Epaphroditus. In speaking of him, he wrote, "He risked his life for the work of Christ and he was at the point of death while trying to do for me the things you couldn't do because you were far away."

We do not know very much about Epaphroditus. But these things we do know that he delivered money to Paul while he was in prison. We do know that he helped Paul during a time of great physical and financial need. We do know that he became sick while he was staying with Paul. And we do know that Paul trusted him to deliver a most important "thank-you" letter to the church at Philippi.

The world honors those who are recognized for being rich, athletic, wealthy, entertaining, and intelligent. But here we see God recognizing and honoring a servant. And Paul also said, "Welcome him with Christian love, great joy, and be sure to honor people like him." A simple servant, honored eternally, for taking a risk for God.

Prayer: We are reminded, Lord, of those who do for You what few are willing to do. Thank You for the missionaries who serve You quietly. Honor them greatly. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Philippians 2:25-30 ...Welcome him in the Lord with great joy, and honor men like him, because he almost died for the work of Christ, risking his life to make up for the help you could not give me.

The logo for Golden Living, featuring the words "golden" in orange and "living" in blue, with a curved orange line underneath.

We now accept

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

for out patient therapy.

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

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News from the Associated Press

Tuesday's Scores By The Associated Press

Volleyball

Aberdeen Roncalli def. Hamlin, 18-25, 25-21, 25-8, 25-19
Arlington def. Estelline, 25-16, 25-7, 25-20
Avon def. Corsica/Stickney, 25-15, 25-17, 25-14
Baltic def. Howard, 25-16, 25-20, 17-25, 25-22
Beresford def. Vermillion, 25-20, 25-18, 25-15
Britton-Hecla def. Langford, 25-17, 26-24, 25-23
Chester def. Sioux Valley, 28-26, 25-23, 25-8
Clark/Willow Lake def. Tiospa Zina Tribal, 25-19, 25-15, 25-7
Colman-Egan def. DeSmet, 22-25, 25-17, 25-16, 25-15
Deubrook def. Castlewood, 25-20, 25-12, 25-17
Douglas def. Lead-Deadwood, 25-17, 25-14, 25-15
Elkton-Lake Benton def. Lake Preston, 25-14, 25-14, 25-12
Eureka/Bowdle def. McIntosh, 25-15, 22-25, 29-27, 25-18
Faulkton def. Edmunds Central, 25-15, 25-14, 25-12
Freeman Academy/Marion def. Dell Rapids St. Mary, 25-13, 25-11, 25-20
Great Plains Lutheran def. Waubay/Summit, 25-20, 31-33, 25-14, 25-18
Hanson def. Freeman, 25-18, 23-25, 25-13, 25-13
Harding County def. Rapid City Christian, 25-19, 19-25, 25-21, 25-21
Harrisburg def. Brandon Valley, 25-21, 25-19, 24-26, 26-28, 15-9
Huron def. Pierre, 25-21, 14-25, 17-25, 25-18, 15-10
Irene-Wakonda def. Viborg-Hurley, 25-15, 27-25, 25-23
James Valley Christian def. Wessington Springs, 25-22, 25-18, 25-22
Kimball/White Lake def. Platte-Geddes, 20-25, 25-23, 25-14, 24-26, 17-15
Lennox def. Alcester-Hudson, 25-22, 25-22, 19-25, 23-25, 15-11
Madison def. Dell Rapids, 25-16, 25-18, 25-16
Milbank Area def. Sisseton, 25-14, 25-22, 25-13
Mitchell def. Watertown, 25-23, 23-25, 25-23, 25-17
Mobridge-Pollock def. Linton-HMB, N.D., 24-26, 11-25, 25-19, 25-22, 15-5
Northwestern def. Groton Area, 25-19, 25-16, 25-10
Parker def. Flandreau, 25-11, 25-10, 25-12
Parkston def. Bon Homme, 26-28, 26-28, 25-15, 25-23, 15-7
Philip def. Dupree, 25-14, 25-20, 25-9
Sanborn Central/Woonsocket def. Hitchcock-Tulare, 16-25, 25-21, 25-18, 25-22
Sioux Falls Christian def. Southwest Minnesota Christian, Minn., 25-10, 25-20, 25-17
Sioux Falls Roosevelt def. Yankton, 25-15, 25-16, 25-17
Sioux Falls Washington def. Sioux Falls Lincoln, 26-24, 23-25, 17-25, 25-21, 15-13
Spearfish def. Sturgis Brown, 25-14, 25-17, 25-11
St. Thomas More def. Hot Springs, 25-16, 25-16, 25-23
Sully Buttes def. Herreid/Selby Area, 25-13, 25-12, 25-10
Tea Area def. McCook Central/Montrose, 18-25, 21-25, 25-23, 25-21, 15-13
Tri-Valley def. Mt. Vernon/Plankinton, 25-20, 17-25, 25-18, 23-25, 15-8
Wagner def. Winner, 25-21, 25-18, 25-21
Warner def. Webster, 25-16, 25-14, 25-14
White River def. Lower Brule, 25-15, 25-23, 25-12

Wolsey-Wessington def. Sunshine Bible Academy, 25-9, 25-7, 25-5
Gayville-Volin Triangular
Gayville-Volin def. Marty Indian, 25-15, 25-17, 25-10
Gayville-Volin def. Omaha Nation, Neb., 25-17, 25-7, 25-12
Omaha Nation, Neb. def. Marty Indian, 25-21, 25-15, 29-27
Hill City Triangular
Custer def. Wall, 25-17, 22-25, 25-18, 25-12
Custer def. Hill City, 25-15, 25-18, 21-25, 25-16
Kadoka Triangular
Kadoka Area def. Stanley County, 17-25, 25-22, 25-20, 25-22
Kadoka Area def. New Underwood, 25-23, 25-19, 25-9
Stanley County def. New Underwood, 25-16, 25-16, 18-25, 25-23
McLaughlin Triangular
Chamberlain def. McLaughlin, 25-17, 25-15, 25-20
Cheyenne-Eagle Butte def. McLaughlin, 15-25, 25-17, 25-17, 25-18
Cheyenne-Eagle Butte def. Chamberlain, 25-14, 25-21, 25-23

South Dakota Democrat reveals rape in condemning Trump

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota's Democratic U.S. House candidate on Tuesday shared the story of her sexual assault in condemning Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump for making predatory comments about women in 2005.

Paula Hawks wrote in an essay published on the website Medium that condoning such behavior enables it at colleges and in the workplace.

Hawks wrote she was raped by "a person in a position of authority" while in college. In a telephone interview, Hawks said it happened in 1995 while she was at South Dakota State University. She said she didn't report the assault to police.

Hawks in part didn't want to have to repeatedly relive the experience and at the time didn't want her friends and family to know, she said.

"Never in a million years did I think I would feel comfortable talking about this publicly," Hawks wrote. "But then, I didn't think we'd ever have a presidential candidate bragging about sexual assault. Nor did I expect to witness the number of people ready and willing to excuse his behavior."

Hawks is challenging three-term Republican Rep. Kristi Noem, who has said that she plans to vote for the GOP nominee because he will sign conservative legislation into law.

Without naming her opponent, Hawks wrote in the essay that supporting a sexual predator in hopes he would sign your bill is a line society shouldn't cross.

Noem has said that Trump's comments in the 2005 tape that captured him talking about kissing and grabbing women are horrific. She said in a statement Tuesday that she was "heartbroken" by what happened to Hawks, but stood by her support of Trump.

The consequences of the election will last a generation, said Noem, who has a significant fundraising advantage in the House race.

Thune requests federal aid for ranchers affected by SD fire

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — U.S. Sen. John Thune is requesting federal disaster aid for ranchers affected by a large prairie fire in western South Dakota.

Thune wrote to U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack on Tuesday, asking for immediate aid to ranchers affected by the Cottonwood Fire. Thune notes that many of the ranchers were hit by a winter storm three years ago.

The fire started Sunday afternoon east of Wall and has burned 48 square miles. Authorities say the blaze was human-caused.

Numerous rural buildings were burned, though no homes. Smoke from the fire cut visibility on Interstate 90 and contributed to at least two crashes. No one was hurt.

About 300 firefighters from 10 western counties fought the blaze at its peak.

Onida asked to issue tax-free muni bonds for ethanol plant

ONIDA, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Supreme Court last month removed the final obstacle for a \$150 million ethanol plant in Sully County, but Ringneck Energy is still trying to raise the needed money.

The company is now asking the city of Onida to issue \$15 million to \$20 million in tax-free municipal bonds so construction can begin in the spring, the Capital Journal (<http://bit.ly/2dYglCC>) reported.

Ralph McGinley of Rain Street Advisors LLC of St. Paul said the bonds would be paid off only by revenue from the ethanol plant and would not obligate the city or its residents to pay the bonds off.

According to Ringneck Energy CEO Walt Wendland bonds such as this are considered a good investment for serious investors because the returns on these bonds are not taxed by the federal government and are considered lower risk compared to other stock investments.

Wendland said he's been traveling the region for the past year seeking investors to pitch in about \$70 million, but that he's not there yet.

"We are still continuing to work with investors to finish raising the equity funding," Wendland said. But the municipal bond issue "is a way to finish it sooner."

In order to issue the bonds Ringneck would need municipality, said Wendland.

Last month the state Supreme Court denied an appeal by about a dozen Onida residents who oppose the plant's location just south of the city of 700. Opponents say it'll pose environmental and health hazards to them and the city.

Information from: Pierre Capital Journal, <http://www.capjournal.com>

South Dakota Volleyball Polls

By The Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) - Here is the South Dakota Sportswriters Association volleyball poll for the week of Oct. 17, 2016. Teams are listed with first place votes in parenthesis, record, points and previous ranking:<

Class AA

Rank-School;FPV;Rcd;TP;Pvs

1. Harrisburg;(9);16-1;45;1
2. Roosevelt;-;17-7;33;2
3. Stevens;-;20-5;26;4
4. Mitchell;-;14-5;16;5
5. O'Gorman;-;16-12;11;30

Others receiving votes: Huron 13-7.<

Class A

Rank-School;FPV;Rcd;TP;Pvs

1. Dakota Valley;(7);23-2;43;2
2. S.F. Christian;(2);18-4;38;1
3. Bon Homme;-;21-2;25;3
4. Custer;-;28-0;18;4
5. Mobridge-Pollock;-;19-4;9;5

Others receiving votes: West Central 19-6.<

Class B

Rank-School;FPV;Rcd;TP;Pvs

1. Northwestern;(9);27-1;45;1
2. Warner;-;23-4;35;2
3. Chester Area;-;18-6;26;3

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4. Sully Buttes;-;24-1;19;4
5. Parker;-;20-5;10;5Others receiving votes: None.<

South Dakota Prep Polls

By The Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) - The South Dakota Sportswriters Association high school football poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records, total points and last week's ranking. With first-place votes in parentheses and total points:<

Class 11AAA

Rank-School	FPV Rcd;TP;Pvs
1. Sioux Falls Roosevelt	(6) 8-0;38;1
2. Sioux Falls Washington	(2) 8-0;34;2
3. Sioux Falls O'Gorman	- 6-2;24;3
4. Brandon Valley	- 5-3;15;4
5. Aberdeen Central	- 4-4;7;RVOthers receiving votes: Rapid City Stevens 2.<

Class 11AA

Rank-School;FPV;Rcd;TP;Pvs
1. Harrisburg;(5);6-2;37;1
2. Mitchell;(3);7-1;35;2
3. Huron;-;4-4;22;4
4. Spearfish;-;4-4;9;RV
5. Douglas;-;3-5;8;RVOthers receiving votes: Pierre 6, Yankton 3.<

Class 11A

Rank-School;FPV;Rcd;TP;Pvs
1. Tea Area;(7);8-0;39;3
2. St. Thomas More;(1);8-0;32;2
3. Madison;-;7-1;25;1
4. SF Christian;-;7-1;15;4
5. Dell Rapids;-;6-2;8;T5Others receiving votes: Hot Springs 1.<

Class 11B

Rank-School	FPV;Rcd;TP;Pvs
1. Winner	(7);7-0;39;1
2. Groton Area	(1);7-0;31;2
T3.Tri-Valley	-;4-3;16;3
T3.Sioux Valley	-;5-2;16;RV
5. Bridgewater-Emery-Ethan	-;4-3;13;4Others receiving votes: Chamberlain 5.<

Class 9AA

Rank-School;FPV;Rcd;TP;Pvs
1. Canistota;(6);7-0;36;2
2. Gregory;(2);8-0;34;1
3. Webster Area;-;7-0;21;3
4. Wolsey-Wessington;-;6-1;12;5
5. Baltic;-;7-0;6;RVOthers receiving votes: Mount Vernon/Plankinton 4, Britton-Hecla 3, Woonsocket/Wessington Springs/Sanborn Central 2, Bon Homme 1, Chester Area 1.<

Class 9A

Rank-School	FPV;Rcd;TP;Pvs
1. Sully Buttes	(5);7-0;36;1
2. Warner	(3);7-0;34;2
3. Potter County	-;7-0;26;3
4. Colman-Egan	-;6-1;16;4

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T5.Castlewood-Estelline

-;6-1;3;RV

T5.Gayville-Volin

-;6-1;3;RVOthers receiving votes: Philip 1, Lemmon/McIntosh

1.<

Class 9B

Rank-School;FPV;Rcd;TP;Pvs

1. Corsica-Stickney;(6);7-0;37;1

2. Harding County;(2);7-0;33;2

3. Langford Area;-;6-1;24;3

4. Colome;-;6-1;17;5

5. Hamlin;-;5-2;8;4Others receiving votes: Wall 1.<

Attorney: Corporate farming suit about issues, not parties

By **BLAKE NICHOLSON**, Associated Press

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — The North Dakota Farmers Union's potential intervention in a lawsuit over the constitutionality of the state's anti-corporate farming law isn't likely to affect the outcome, an attorney for North Dakota Farm Bureau says.

"The issues and the law remain the same regardless of which parties are involved in the lawsuit," attorney Claire Smith told The Associated Press.

The farmers union asked a federal judge last week for permission to help defend the law that aims to protect the state's family farming heritage, which the union says "is the envy of other states and the backbone of our economy." If U.S. District Judge Daniel Hovland agrees, it will set up a showdown between the state's two largest general farm groups, which together represent 72,000 farm families.

The lawsuit was filed by the farm bureau and other plaintiffs in June, arguing that the law passed by voters in 1932 hurts the agriculture industry by limiting farmers' business options and interferes with interstate commerce because it bars out-of-state corporations from owning farming operations.

The state is defending the law. Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem maintains it is not discriminatory, and he's asked Hovland to dismiss the case.

The farmers union's motion says it led the fight to create the corporate farming law, and that "from the beginning, NDFU members knew such a statute must comply with the U.S. Constitution." The group also says it has records dealing with the law's creation that might "support judicial economy in the resolution of this action."

Smith believes the plaintiffs will prevail on the merits of their case, given that courts struck down similar laws in South Dakota and Nebraska in the early and mid-2000s. North Dakota is among only nine states that restrict corporate farming.

"All of the issues to be decided by the court are legal issues which have previously been addressed," Smith said.

Plaintiffs in the lawsuit in addition to Farm Bureau are: a Wisconsin dairy farmer and a Wisconsin dairy company seeking to expand into North Dakota; a North Dakota hog farmer who is a member of the North Dakota Sow Center, which owns and operates several hog facilities and has partners in North Dakota, South Dakota and Iowa; the North Dakota Pork Council; a North Dakota cattle rancher who wants to expand; and Global Beef Consultants, which provides cattle consulting and export services and also owns two ranches in Kazakhstan.

The Dakota Resource Council environmental group also is seeking Hovland's permission to help defend the law.

Follow Blake Nicholson on Twitter at: <http://twitter.com/NicholsonBlake>

Police: Road rage led to Missouri woman's shooting death

INDEPENDENCE, Mo. (AP) — Jackson County authorities say a 39-year-old man is charged in the fatal shooting of an Independence woman that was apparently prompted by road rage.

County Prosecutor Jean Peters Baker announced Tuesday that Christopher Taylor of Independence was charged with second-degree murder and armed criminal action in the death Sunday of 22-year-old Whitney Gray. Taylor was arrested early Tuesday in Box Elder, South Dakota.

Court records indicate Gray was shot from a moving vehicle while driving a van with three children inside. Witnesses told police a white van was following Gray's vehicle closely and tried to pass her, nearly causing an accident. A liquid was thrown from Gray's vehicle onto Taylor's vehicle and then a loud "pop" was heard.

The three children in the van weren't hurt.

State won't seek death penalty in Sioux Falls fatal shooting

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Prosecutors will not seek the death penalty against a suspect should he be convicted of fatally shooting another man outside of a Sioux Falls casino.

Jared Stone is accused of killing 28-year-old Baptiste White Eyes last spring. He's been in jail on murder and other charges following his April 27 arrest in Wyoming following a five-day, multistate manhunt.

Minnehaha County State's Attorney Aaron McGowan says his office is "very selective" in whether to seek the death penalty, and that this case "did not meet the necessary threshold."

Stone's attorneys in August had asked prosecutors to make up their mind about what potential punishment they would seek.

Defendant in child rape case wants statements thrown out

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — The lawyer for a Rapid City woman accused of raping a 4-year-old girl while baby-sitting a year ago is asking a judge to throw out statements the woman allegedly made to police and the girl's parents.

Twenty-six-year-old Ashlee Goldsmith has pleaded not guilty to two counts of first-degree rape in the alleged October 2015 incident. She could face life in prison if convicted.

Defense attorney Shiloh McNally says any statements his client gave to law officers were involuntary, and that a recorded discussion involving Goldsmith and the child's mother and stepfather is "not complete." He also alleges the stepfather threatened Goldsmith.

The Rapid City Journal reports (<http://bit.ly/2eBuadA>) that Judge Robert Mandel did not immediately rule.

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

Meet Azalea the smoking chimp, new star at Pyongyang zoo

By ERIC TALMADGE, Associated Press

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP) — Pyongyang's newly opened zoo has a new star: Azalea, the smoking chimpanzee.

According to officials at the newly renovated zoo, which has become a favorite leisure spot in the North Korean capital since it re-opened in July, the 19-year-old female chimpanzee, whose name in Korean is "Dallae," smokes about a pack a day. Dallae is short for azalea.

They insist, however, she doesn't inhale.

Thrown a lighter by a zoo trainer, the chimpanzee lights her own cigarettes. If a lighter isn't available, she can light up from lit cigarette if one is tossed her way.

Though such a sight would draw outrage in many other locales, it seemed to delight visitors who roared with laughter on Wednesday as the chimpanzee, one of two at the zoo, sat puffing away as her trainer egged her on. The trainer also prompted her to touch her nose, bow thank you and do a simple dance.

The zoo is pulling in thousands of visitors a day with a slew of attractions ranging from such typical fare

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as elephants, giraffes, penguins and monkeys to a high-tech natural history museum with displays showing the origins of the solar system and the evolution of life on Earth.

Another of the most popular attractions that might come as a surprise to foreign visitors is the dog pavilion, which has everything from German shepherds to Shih Tsus. The zoo also has performances featuring other animals trained to do tricks, including a monkey that slam dunks basketballs, dogs trained to appear as though they can do addition on subtraction on an abacus and doves that fly around and land on a woman skating on an indoor stage.

Renovations for the new zoo began in 2014, as part of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's efforts to create more modern and impressive structures and leisure centers around the capital. The zoo actually dates back to 1959, when Kim Il Sung, the nation's first leader and the grandfather of Kim Jong Un, ordered it built on the outskirts of the city.

According to its official history, the zoo started off with only 50 badgers.

VIEWERS' GUIDE: Candidates hone final arguments for Round 3

By NANCY BENAC, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — It was barely three weeks ago that Donald Trump opened the first presidential debate by asking, with faux deference, if it was OK to refer to his opponent as "Secretary Clinton."

By Round 2 he was back to calling Hillary Clinton "the devil." Since then, the Republican candidate's scorched-earth campaign tactics have left all sides wondering just how low things will go in the third and final presidential debate, coming up Wednesday night.

For her part, Clinton steps up as a flood of hacked emails provides an unprecedented real-time look into the machinations of a presidential campaign — hers. In the disclosed material, Clinton is shown taking positions in paid, private speeches at odds with some of her public pronouncements. And she is revealed as resistant to advice by aides to apologize for her email practices and clear the air. That's all fodder for the debate.

Trump, never known for self-censorship, has pronounced himself "unshackled" at last in the final weeks of the campaign. That has people wondering what Trump possibly has left to unleash.

Moderator Chris Wallace of Fox News will have new information about both candidates to delve into during this debate. For Trump, there is the drip-drip drama of women who have come forward to allege that he went after them with unwanted sexual advances. For Clinton, there is the drip-drip of WikiLeaks.

Some things to watch for in Wednesday's 90-minute faceoff at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas:

RIGGED

Trump in recent days has tried to deflect attention from the allegations about sexual advances by complaining that the election process is rigged against him. Without providing any evidence, he wraps together the potential for voter fraud with assertions that his female accusers are part of a plot to smear him. With millions of viewers tuning in, will Trump dwell on conspiracy theories or give voters a more positive reason to vote for him?

HACKED

Largely overshadowed by the allegations against Trump has been WikiLeaks' day-after-day release of thousands of hacked emails from the Clinton campaign. The emails include excerpts of Clinton's closed-door speeches to Wall Street interests and lots of campaign strategizing over how to contain the political damage related to her handling of classified emails and her use of a private email server. Trump has responded with a scattershot series of criticisms about "Clinton corruption," but he has yet to hone a disciplined line of attack. Wednesday night gives him a fresh opportunity to try to synthesize his message and find a way to make the email controversy stick.

BREATHE

The campaign took a dramatic detour last week when a series of women came forward with allegations that Trump made sexual advances toward them. Trump's combative response, calling the women "sick" and "liars" and alleging that there's a global conspiracy against him, overtook all other aspects of the

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campaign for a time. How much oxygen will it suck up in the final debate?

CIVIL WAR

With a number of Republican officials in open revolt against Trump and worried that he will be a drag on the rest of the ticket, watch to see whether Trump gins up more discord with his party — and whether Clinton steps in to make the case for Democratic control of the House and Senate.

FINGERS CROSSED

Immigration was hardly mentioned in the first two debates. Social Security never came up. The national debt has gotten only passing notice. Policy wonks have their fingers crossed that neglected issues will finally get an airing in the final debate. Wallace's list of potential topics includes debt and entitlements, immigration, the economy, the Supreme Court and foreign hot spots.

IT'S BAAACK

A subject that both candidates love to dwell on also is teed up for Round 3: "fitness to be president." Trump and Clinton already have made plain their disdain for each other's qualifications to occupy the Oval Office, but they can be counted on to look for new ways to inveigh against each other's fitness for office.

CLOSING ARGUMENTS

The first debate attracted a record 84 million viewers and the second 66.5 million. Whatever the viewership for Round 3, it is sure to be the candidates' last chance to speak to such a large audience before Election Day on Nov. 8. Watch what messages the candidates pick to drive home as their closing arguments.

MIND GAMES

Both candidates have used the debates to try to rattle their opponents: Clinton baited Trump by questioning his wealth and his business acumen. Trump tried to throw off Clinton by seating three women who have accused her husband of sexual impropriety in the front row of the audience at the second debate. Odds are both candidates have saved some fresh theatrics for the final debate.

MODERATION

Wallace has served notice he won't try to "truth squad" the debate. Given Trump's habit of skirting the truth, that may put the onus on Clinton for more real-time fact checking. So far, she's largely punted, pointing viewers toward her website.

BEEN THERE, DONE THAT

By the time the debate gets under way, more than 1.6 million Americans already will have voted. For those viewers, the debate could serve to validate their choices — or give them buyer's remorse.

WANNA PLAY COMEDY WRITER?

Keep an eye open for the most mimic-worthy moments: They're likely to show up on "Saturday Night Live's" next parody of the Trump-Clinton contest, featuring Alec Baldwin and Kate McKinnon as the candidates. "SNL" got an unintended boost when Trump tweeted that Baldwin's Trump impersonation stinks.

Follow Nancy Benac on Twitter at: <http://twitter.com/nbenac>

As territory shrinks, IS group looks for new money sources

By VIVIAN SALAMA, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — As the Islamic State group sees its territory shrink to half its original size and its dreams of a caliphate evaporate, the extremist fighters are losing access to the sources of revenue that once gave them their power, prompting them to turn to extortion, kidnapping or foreign donations like their predecessors, the militant group al-Qaida.

The Islamic State group had a unique ability to capitalize on the natural resources of its territory in Iraq and Syria and swiftly implement a system of taxation and governance that allowed it to rule an area that once was the size of Switzerland.

As the battle gets underway to retake Mosul, the group's largest stronghold in Iraq, the Islamic State group is being denied access to revenue sources such as oil and gas and cash reserves that once amounted to more than \$1 billion in 2014, said Daniel Glaser, the Treasury Department's assistant secretary for terrorist financing.

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With those resources slipping away, the Islamic State group is expected to revert to “traditional methods we see al-Qaida using — whether it’s deep-pocket donors, whether it’s charities, whether it’s NGOs, whether it’s criminal activity,” Glaser said in a recent discussion at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy.

Beyond oil and gas sales, the Islamic State group also generated some \$30 million per month in Iraq from taxation and extortion in 2015. Hisham al-Hashimi, an expert on IS who advises the Iraqi government, said the militant group currently makes about \$4 million per month from taxes in Mosul alone. Al-Hashimi said the group charges a 4 percent income tax on salaries less than \$600 per month, and 5 percent on monthly salaries between \$600 and \$1,000.

Bank robberies made up the Islamic State group’s third biggest source of revenue, mainly in Mosul, where there was more than \$500 million in state-owned bank vaults when they captured the city in June 2014, but that was “a one-time take for them,” Glaser noted, and they are quickly burning through that cash.

Glaser says the Islamic State group is under financial duress. Fighter salaries have been cut in half in some areas, including in Raqqa, Syria, its de facto capital. The group also set up an internal corruption agency, suggesting corruption may be a factor, Glaser and al-Hashimi said.

To compensate, there’s been a noticeable spike in the IS group’s revenue from criminal activity, such as extortion — the Paris-based Center for the Analysis of Terrorism says extortion accounted for a third of its revenue in 2015, compared to 12 percent in 2014.

In Syria, Islamic State-run services are lagging and the group recently shifted from paying fighter salaries in U.S. dollars to Syrian pounds, indicating that their access to money markets has been disrupted, said Ziad Awad, editor of The Eye of the City, an online publication in Deir el-Zour. He added that the militants’ access to resources in Deir el-Zour, including oil, has been halved amid ongoing coalition airstrikes, which are complicating oil sales and transportation.

The oil wells were “bringing in about \$2 million daily,” Awad said in a Skype interview from Turkey. “This has shrunk because they’ve lost markets inside Syria and Iraq, due to shrinking territory.”

The Iraqi government moved to suspend government salaries to people living in IS-controlled areas last year in an effort to hit its taxable revenues. Glaser said that the move dealt a significant blow to the group, since the Iraqi government payroll is about \$2 billion per year in Islamic State-held territories.

But the challenges remain with reports that the militants coerce some employees to leave IS-controlled territory to collect their salaries, holding their property as collateral, only to retroactively tax them when they return home.

The group is shifting from a governing force to a militant group on the run.

“In a traditional terror financing model, you don’t have an organization that is focused on governance and on holding and managing territory,” said Yaya J. Fanusie, director of analysis at the Foundation for the Defense of Democracies’ Center on Sanctions and Illicit Finances and a former CIA counterterrorism analyst. “Al-Qaida’s money went to mainly operations and training.”

Beyond criminal activity, Fanusie said IS will likely pursue money through any number of sources as its territory shrinks, from charities to nonprofit groups, sympathetic, wealthy donors, or the huwala system, an alternative remittance system used in countries around the world that allows the transfer of funds domestically and internationally without using formal financial institutions.

“ISIS losing territory is good, but to launch an attack in Europe or the U.S. or any part of the world doesn’t cost a lot,” he said, using an acronym for the group. “If they’re being squeezed in Syria and Iraq and directing their resources on attacks externally and less on governance, then it doesn’t mean they’re not a dangerous force.”

Associated Press writer Zeina Karam in Beirut contributed to this report.

Follow Vivian Salama on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/vmsalama>

Philippine police van rams protesters in front of US Embassy

By BULLIT MARQUEZ and BOGIE CALUPITAN, Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — A Philippine police van rammed into protesters, leaving several bloodied, as an anti-U.S. rally turned violent Wednesday at the American Embassy in Manila.

At least three student activists had to be taken to a hospital after they were ran over by the van driven by a police officer, protest leader Renato Reyes said.

Associated Press TV footage showed the van repeatedly ramming the protesters as it drove wildly back and forth after activists surrounded and started hitting the vehicle with wooden batons they seized from police.

In front of horrified crowds, including videojournalists and photographers, the van suddenly charged backward then sprinted forward twice over a space of about 20 meters (60 feet), barreling through the scattered protesters and hurtling some to the side like bowling pins. A few got ran over but somehow managed to stand.

Some screamed in surprise, others hurled stones at the van and yelled invectives. A speaker called the police “puppies of imperialists” on a loudspeaker.

“There was absolutely no justification for it,” Reyes said of the violent police dispersal of about 1,000 protesters. “Even as the president vowed an independent foreign policy, Philippine police forces still act as running dogs of the U.S.”

Police lobbed tear gas and arrested at least 23 protesters who broke through a line of riot police and hurled red paint at the officers and a U.S. government seal at the start of the rally at the seaside embassy compound.

A firetruck doused the rowdy protesters with water to push them back, but they took hold of the water hose and confronted the outnumbered police with rocks and red paint. After breaking through the police corridor, they scribbled “U.S. troops out now” and other slogans at the embassy’s tall fence with red paint.

The protesters, consisting of students, workers and tribespeople, were demanding an end to the presence of visiting U.S. troops in the Philippines and to support a call by President Rodrigo Duterte for a foreign policy not dependent on the U.S., the country’s longtime treaty ally.

The activists came from the largest left-wing umbrella group called Bayan (Nation), which has organized regular anti-U.S. protests in front of the embassy for decades, most of which are peaceful.

Duterte was on a state visit to China, where he is seeking to repair relations strained under his predecessor over territorial conflicts in the South China Sea. He is also seeking to expand two-way trade and investments and financing for badly needed infrastructure projects.

Amid an uneasy relationship with the U.S., Duterte has tried to reach out to China and Russia, bringing uncertainty to his country’s long alliance with America.

But the protesters also opposed the president’s effort to lean toward China. “The Philippines will not be dictated on, whether by the U.S. or China,” they said in a statement.

The Philippine National Police did not comment immediately Wednesday.

The violence happened as the police and Duterte are under increased international scrutiny for their alleged role in the killings of thousands of drug suspects and pushers as part of the president’s war on illegal drugs.

Associated Press writer Jim Gomez contributed to this report.

Clinton, Trump set for last debate as ugly race nears finish

By JULIE PACE, AP White House Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump’s ugly and acrimonious battle for the White House is barreling toward the end, with the candidates taking the debate stage Wednesday night for one final primetime showdown.

For Trump, the debate is perhaps his last opportunity to turn around a race that appears to be slipping away from him. His predatory comments about women and a flood of sexual assault accusations have

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deepened his unpopularity with women and limited his pathways to victory. His supporters remain intensely loyal, but there are few signs he's attracting the new backers he desperately needs.

Clinton takes the stage facing challenges of her own. While the electoral map currently leans in her favor, the Democrat is facing a new round of questions about her authenticity and trustworthiness, concerns that have trailed her throughout the campaign. The hacking of her top campaign adviser's emails revealed a candidate that is averse to apologizing, can strike a different tone in private than in public, and makes some decisions only after painstaking political deliberations.

The last in a trio of presidential debates, Wednesday's contest in Las Vegas comes just under three weeks from Election Day and with early voting already underway in several key battleground states.

Trump has leaned on an increasingly brazen strategy in the campaign's closing weeks, including peddling charges that the election will be rigged, despite no evidence of widespread voter fraud in U.S. presidential contests. He's also charged that Clinton attacked and intimidated women involved with her husband's affairs, bringing three women who accused former President Bill Clinton of unwanted sexual contact and even rape to sit in the audience for the second debate. The former president has never been charged with crimes related to the encounters, though he did settle a sexual harassment lawsuit.

Trump is bringing President Barack Obama's half-brother, Malik Obama, as his debate guest. Clinton is bringing billionaire and frequent Trump critic Mark Cuban and Hewlett Packard Enterprise CEO Meg Whitman, one of the former secretary of state's highest-profile Republican backers.

Clinton spokesman Brian Fallon said the Democratic nominee "will be ready for whatever scorched-earth tactics (Trump) tries" in Wednesday's debate.

Republicans desperately hope Trump can close the campaign by focusing on Clinton's weaknesses, a strategy some privately concede may not be enough at this point for him to win, but could help GOP Senate candidates salvage their races.

The businessman has shown flashes of renewed focus in recent days, including highlighting a senior State Department official's request that the FBI help reduce the classification of an email from Clinton's private server. It was to be part of a bargain that would have allowed the FBI to deploy more agents in foreign countries, though it was not immediately clear whether the State Department official or someone at the FBI first raised that prospect.

Campaigning Tuesday in Colorado, Trump called the matter "felony corruption" and worse than the Watergate scandal that brought down President Richard Nixon.

Clinton, who has meticulously prepared for the three debates at the expense of time in battleground states, visibly rattled Trump in their first showdown by using his own controversial comments about women and minorities against him. The businessman was on the defense at the start of the second debate — which came days after the release of a video in which he brags about kissing and grabbing women — but ended on stronger footing, hammering Clinton for being a creature of Washington who won't be able to bring about change.

Trump denied in the second debate that he had made the kind of unwanted sexual advances he is heard describing on the video. His denial prompted some of the women who have since publicly accused him of assault to come forward.

The Republican has acquiesced to some advisers who pressed for him to do more serious preparations after the first debate. Still, he's continued to eschew the mock debates and multiday prep sessions that he's criticizing Clinton for.

"She's been doing this for 30 years and now she has to do debate prep for five days," Trump said. "You know what the debate prep is? It's resting. It's lying down and going to sleep."

Moderator Chris Wallace — the first Fox News journalist to moderate a debate — has said he plans to ask the candidates about debt and entitlements, immigration, the economy, the Supreme Court, foreign hot spots and their fitness to be president. He aims to spend 15 minutes on each topic.

AP writer Jill Colvin in Colorado Springs, Colorado, contributed to this report.

Follow Julie Pace at <http://twitter.com/jpaceDC>

Campus sex assaults stir debate on when to alert students

By JOCELYN GECKER, Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — When a student athlete at San Jose State University in California was accused of sexually assaulting two women at an off-campus party over Labor Day weekend, school officials acted decisively.

The student was ordered to stay away from the women involved and was moved from his dorm into a staff housing facility. He was also temporarily suspended from campus and team events pending the result of an investigation.

University officials also acted quietly, prompting many students to ask why they were kept in the dark about the alleged assaults. Fueling the criticism, the suspect — identified as an international student — left the country as authorities investigated.

The case has renewed focus on the problem of sexual assaults involving college students and raises questions about what obligations a university has to inform students and when it's time to go public about an alleged assault.

University officials and legal experts say it's a delicate issue. On one hand, students have an interest in knowing immediately if a perpetrator is on their campus. But schools also need to protect students' privacy before an arrest is made or charges filed.

One proposed solution is for schools to notify students of suspected assaults in police-blotter style, without divulging details that could identify suspects or victims.

San Jose campus president Mary Papazian addressed student concerns in an email sent Monday to the university's 35,000 students and 5,000 faculty and staff.

"I am determined to do everything possible to ensure that SJSU is a safe, caring, inclusive community," she said. "We will look comprehensively at how to improve communication."

The school has said the male student was immediately interviewed by police and school officials. Since no arrests have been made and the Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office is still reviewing the case for possible charges, the school felt there was no imminent safety threat to the campus community.

Still, given the student concerns, the university will review the way it responds in sexual assault cases.

"I believe it is time to re-examine and consider changes to notification policies," Papazian said.

The case follows the high-profile trial of former Stanford University athlete Brock Turner, who was convicted of attacking a woman while she was passed out near a trash bin on campus in January 2015. Turner's six-month prison sentence sparked national outrage and ignited a debate about campus rape and the criminal justice system.

The California State University system, which includes San Jose State and 22 other campuses, has no systemwide policy on notifying the campus community about alleged assaults.

But the schools adhere to the federal Clery Act, which requires universities to issue "timely warnings" of situations seen as a threat to the campus, said Toni Molle, spokeswoman for the California State University system. The decision of when to issue warnings is up to each campus.

The Stanford case did not become public until Turner was charged, said Stanford law professor Michele Dauber, who favors some public disclosure early on after assaults are reported.

"As long as student privacy is protected, schools should err on the side of greater transparency and issue the timely warnings," said Dauber, a friend of the woman Turner assaulted who has been outspoken against the judge's sentencing.

Families Advocating for Campus Equality, which works on behalf of students accused of assault, says it's important not to name names prematurely.

"I think it's OK for a campus to notify in the abstract. Take more precautions, say there's been a report,"

said Cynthia Garrett, a co-president at the group. "But to put somebody's name and face out there, you need to be pretty sure something has happened. Imagine if you're innocent. Just imagine, how that could ruin a life."

Most universities will wait until there is a clear public safety issue to sound an alarm.

But publicizing an assault could lead more victims to step forward, says Fatima Goss Graves, an attorney at the Washington D.C.-based national Women's Law Center.

In San Jose, one of the women came forward immediately, and the second woman waited two weeks.

Robotic scan for horses could hold promise for human health

By KATHY MATHESON, Associated Press

KENNETT SQUARE, Pa. (AP) — Veterinarians hope an innovative type of CT scan can advance medical care for horses and possibly be adapted for humans, eliminating the need for people to lie still inside a tube.

Robotic CT at the University of Pennsylvania's veterinary school allows a horse to remain awake and standing as scanners on two mechanical arms move around it. The resulting high-quality images, including some in 3D, for the first time offer detailed anatomical views of the animal in its normal, upright state.

That's a huge difference from the standard CT for a horse, which requires administering anesthesia, placing the animal on its side and maneuvering a scanning unit around the affected area. Not all body parts fit in the machines.

Robotic CT "is much less stressful," said Dr. Barbara Dallap Schaer, medical director of Penn Vet's New Bolton Center. "It's a pretty athletic event for horses to recover from general anesthesia."

The New York-based company 4DDI created the Equimag system with components from robot manufacturer ABB. First unveiled at Penn last spring, 4DDI now has orders for more than a dozen units at equine facilities around the world, according to CEO Yiorgos Papaioannou.

"The word is spreading," Papaioannou said.

At Penn, the large white robotic arms are installed at a barn at New Bolton Center, the vet school's hospital for large animals in the Philadelphia exurb of Kennett Square. Horses are given a mild sedative and walked into the facility for a scan that lasts less than a minute.

CT, or computed tomography, gives pictures of soft tissues that X-rays can't. While traditional CT requires the subject to be still, this new system compensates for slight movement. Eventually, vets hope they'll be able to capture CT images of a horse running on a treadmill.

The ease of imaging means more horses can get preventive scans, said Dr. Dean Richardson, chief of surgery at New Bolton. As it stands, he said, many owners are reluctant to have their horses anesthetized for a diagnostic procedure because recovery can be treacherous. As the animals emerge from unconsciousness and woozily struggle to find their footing, they risk catastrophic injury if they stumble.

"So the whole beauty of this technology, we hope, is that we're going to be able to scan much greater numbers of patients much, much earlier in the process of things like stress-related injuries in a racehorse," Richardson said.

For humans, the technology could be helpful when dealing with squirming children or claustrophobic adults. Doctors could also get clearer views of, say, spinal problems in a standing patient instead of relying on CT performed while the person is lying down. Penn's translational research team has partnered with other hospitals to look at the possibilities.

"This is an interesting concept — the ability to image in your natural state," said Raul Uppot, an assistant professor of radiology at Harvard Medical School who is not involved in the research. "It does offer something that doesn't currently exist in the market (for humans)."

Equimag's base cost is \$545,000, according to Papaioannou, though he said some new customers are getting the equipment in exchange for a per-scan fee. The company plans to make another version of the system for smaller animals, he said.

Penn's system was made possible through a donor, said Dallap Schaer, noting the cost was comparable to standard CT scanners. Overall cost for the images will be less than CT scans that require anesthesia,

she said.

Dennis Charles, of Allentown, brought his horse Bert to Penn Vet for an MRI earlier this year, before robotic CT was available. The procedure required anesthesia, and Charles said he was incredibly nervous watching a wobbly Bert regain consciousness afterward.

Last month, the horse again needed imaging but was able to have robotic CT. Charles, who described the robotic system as looking like something out of "Star Wars," said the scans assured him Bert's leg injury had healed.

"They get really precise images," he said. "I think it's a tremendous piece of equipment."

Follow Kathy Matheson at www.twitter.com/kmatheson

Hill outpitches Arrieta; Dodgers beat Cubs 6-0 for NLCS lead

By BETH HARRIS, AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Rich Hill never strayed from his mindset of pitching in the moment, even when he was far from the major leagues playing independent ball with the Long Island Ducks.

Convinced there would be another opportunity to get back to the big leagues, he focused on executing pitches without worrying about his current circumstances.

Fourteen months later, Hill allowed two hits over six innings to beat Cy Young Award winner Jake Arrieta and the Chicago Cubs 6-0 Tuesday, giving the Los Angeles Dodgers a 2-1 NL Championship Series lead.

"It's the biggest game of my career," Hill said. "It's just putting in the work, putting in the time, having a routine, persevere, all those things that you can say to sum up some kind of endurance or resiliency. For me, that's all I've ever known is just work."

Rookie Corey Seager had three hits, including a go-ahead single in the third, and Yasmani Grandal hit a two-run homer in the fourth.

After winning a big league-high 103 games during the regular season and sparking belief they could win the World Series for the first time since 1908, the Cubs have been shut out in consecutive games for the first time since May 2014, managing just six hits — five of them singles. Their 18 straight scoreless innings mark the longest postseason drought in franchise history, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

"More than anything, I think we need to get a couple runs and hits and runs early to try to get that kind of feeling back," Cubs manager Joe Maddon said, "because, obviously, when you're not scoring any runs, it makes it even more difficult in the dugout."

Hill, who made two starts in the independent Atlantic League in August 2015 before signing a minor league deal with Boston, struck out six and walked two. Joe Blanton, Grant Dayton and Kenley Jansen finished. Playing their 200th postseason game, the Dodgers posted consecutive shutouts for the first time.

Julio Urias starts Game 4 for the Dodgers on Wednesday and at 20 years, 68 days will become the youngest starting pitcher in postseason history. John Lackey starts for the Cubs.

"He's not scared of the moment," Seager said of Urias. "He's not scared of anything."

Hill was acquired from Oakland along with Josh Reddick at the Aug. 1 trade deadline. The 36-year-old left-hander struggled with a blister on the middle finger of his pitching hand that landed him on the disabled list from mid-July to late August. The blister still bothered him in the final weeks of the regular season, and Dodgers manager Dave Roberts pulled him after seven perfect innings against Miami on Sept. 10, saying the team had to keep its focus on bigger goals in October.

Hill was strong from the start against one of his former teams, retiring the side to open the game and later eight in a row. He's given up one run in 23 innings over four home starts for the Dodgers, lowering his ERA to 0.39.

"When he's got that attitude out there, you can tell," Dodgers first baseman Adrian Gonzalez said. "That's when you know he's rolling, that his pitches are working, and he's doing what he wants to do out there."

Seager's go-ahead single ended an 0-for-15 slide with runners in scoring position in postseason play.

Grandal was 0 for 5 with three strikeouts against Arrieta in his career before he launched a 3-2 pitch into the right-field pavilion in the fourth for a 3-0 lead. Grandal drove in Reddick, who singled and stole

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second and third.

"He's been so good for the last couple years just because he doesn't give in," Grandal said of Arrieta. "He still made a really good pitch down in the zone. I was just lucky to put a swing on it and hit it out."

Justin Turner homered on the first pitch leading off the sixth to chase Arrieta, who gave up four runs and six hits in five innings. He dominated the Dodgers in his previous two starts against them, including a no-hitter at Dodger Stadium on Aug. 30, 2015. Los Angeles had gone 2 for 51 against him in two games.

"It's hard to go out there and pitch when your team is not scoring, so you try to be perfect. You can't make any mistakes. If you give up one run, that can be it," Cubs catcher Miguel Montero said. "He had one of his best stuff all year, to be honest."

Joc Pederson doubled in a run in the eighth and Grandal hit a run-scoring groundout .

Maddon moved struggling Anthony Rizzo from third to the cleanup spot, and his broken-bat infield hit in the ninth made him 2 for 26 in the postseason. Addison Russell, dropped from fifth to seventh, is 1 for 24. Jason Heyward struck out as a pinch hitter and is 2 for 19.

Chicago's 3-4-5 hitters went 1 for 11 in the game and are 2 for 32 in the series without an RBI.

Dexter Fowler's two-out double in the eighth provided the Cubs' first extra-base hit since their 8-4 win in the opener.

"There's no doubt here," third baseman Kris Bryant said. "We certainly have all the belief in the world. It's a powerful thing when you believe."

With a win Wednesday, the Dodgers could try to finish the series at home.

"These guys won 100-some games. They've got the talent, so you can't think ahead," Grandal said. "If you think ahead, that's when bad things happen."

SHUTOUT BLUES

Four of Chicago's eight shutouts this year have been against the Dodgers.

KERSHAW

Roberts hasn't ruled out turning to Clayton Kershaw to pitch on three days' rest in Game 5 on Thursday.

Los Angeles has announced rookie Kenta Maeda as its starter. He's given up seven earned runs in a combined seven innings of his two postseason starts.

In last week's five-game Division Series against Washington, Kershaw pitched in all three wins. He started Game 1 and Game 4, on three days' rest and got his first big league save in Game 5.

"The series circumstances will kind of dictate what decision we make," Roberts said Tuesday. "Clayton feels good after Game 2. He's prepared for anything that we have for him. He's shown the ability to adjust his routine or regimen for whatever is best for our club."

UP NEXT

Lackey is 8-5 with a 3.22 ERA in 24 postseason appearances. Urias will be the third consecutive left-hander to start for the Dodgers. He earned the victory over Washington in Game 5 of the NLDS with two scoreless innings.

Obama honors Italy's leader at 'bittersweet' state dinner

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — "Bittersweet" was the word of the night, the one often used to describe President Barack Obama's final state dinner.

"We saved the best for last," he said Tuesday as he welcomed Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi and his wife, Agnese Landini, to the White House.

He wasn't joking.

The final gala meant everything was big or bigger, from the personality of the guest chef (Mario Batali) who collaborated on the menu to the size of the white tent (huge) on the South Lawn where the soiree was held, to the guest list (nearly 400 people).

Rep. Gerald Connolly, D-Va., said it's "a little sad" that it's Obama's last state dinner. But to make the occasion even more memorable, he said: "For tonight only, I pronounce my name 'Canoli,' not 'Connolly.'"

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Michelle Obama's hairstylist, Johnny Wright, also described the moment as "bittersweet," but he was still excited to have been invited. The first lady also invited her makeup artist, Carl Ray; her trainer, Cornell McClellan; and Meredith Koop, who helps Mrs. Obama with her wardrobe.

"I'm excited that it's the last state dinner, so it's a bittersweet thing," said actress-comedian Alexandra Wentworth. "I love the Obamas."

Others, meanwhile, sought to inject some levity into the evening.

"We're Jews, but we identify as Italian," joked Jerry Seinfeld. By way of explaining why the Obamas may have invited the comedian and his wife, Jessica, Seinfeld said the couple spends a lot of time traveling in Italy "and we almost exclusively go out for Italian food, but that's as far as I can figure."

After tripping while climbing stairs and then cutting out the lining of her dress, celebrity chef Rachael Ray joked that "I should only come here in sneakers." Ray has done numerous events with Mrs. Obama to support the first lady's "Let's Move" anti-childhood obesity initiative.

Obama has had one dinner bigger than Tuesday's, a 2014 event for African heads of state to which more than 400 people were invited.

Tuesday's guest list included a touch of everything: celebrities, lawmakers, senior administration officials, White House staff, a larger-than-usual contingent of journalists and others, and it had the feeling of having been designed as one big final "thank you" to all.

In fact, Mrs. Obama was overhead thanking her guests "for eight magnificent years."

"This has truly been a successful final state dinner," she said between dinner and the entertainment.

Guests of Italian descent included House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., the highest-ranking Italian-American in U.S. politics; former race car driver Mario Andretti, who sported socks designed like a checkered racing flag; fashion designer Giorgio Armani; actor John Turturro; New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo; and actor-director Roberto Benigni.

Once again, the first lady dazzled — literally — in her evening gown, a rose gold chainmail number by Italian designer Versace, the White House said. Other female guests also went Italian in their choice of attire, clothing themselves in Valentino, Roberto Cavalli and others.

Batali helped the White House kitchen crew prepare the meal, and Grammy-winning pop singer Gwen Stefani opened the after-dinner segment with her hit, "The Sweet Escape," as her boyfriend, country superstar Blake Shelton, looked on from the audience. After that song, she talked about her dad being Italian American and said "I'm trying to, like, figure this out, how I got here," meaning to the dinner.

A few guests, including fellow cook Sandra Lee, Cuomo's partner, said they were most looking forward to eating Batali's food.

In his pre-dinner toast, Obama said American democracy had been graced by a touch of Italy. He noted that the Lincoln Memorial and the interior of the U.S. Capitol dome were done by Italians, and raised a glass to the "enduring alliance" between the U.S. and Italy.

Renzi alluded during his toast to a speech the first lady gave last week in New Hampshire in which she criticized Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump for boasting on a 2005 video about being sexually aggressive toward women.

"Michelle, your tomatoes are great. But after the last weeks, let me be very frank, your speeches are better than your tomatoes," Renzi said, thanking her as the father of a young daughter.

Batali, executive chef Cristeta Comerford and pastry chef Susie Morrison settled on a menu of sweet potato ravioli with browned butter and sage, warm butternut squash salad and an entree of beef pinwheels, an Italian classic, served with broccoli rabe. Dessert was a green apple crostata, or Italian tart, served with buttermilk gelato, or Italian ice cream.

The menu was designed to showcase traditional Italian dishes that are familiar to Americans and were made using ingredients pulled from Mrs. Obama's garden during this month's final harvest, such as the sweet potatoes and herbs.

Obama has held 13 state dinners during nearly eight years in office, two more than President George W. Bush, but fewer than other recent predecessors, according to the White House Historical Association. President Bill Clinton far exceeded both of his successors with 28 dinners during two terms in office.

State Dinner guest list: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2016/10/18/expected-attendees-tonights-italy-state-dinner>

Follow Darlene Superville on Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/dsupervilleap>

Sexual consent, debated across US, key to Derrick Rose case **By BRIAN MELLEY, Associated Press**

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Months before Derrick Rose took the stand to defend himself in a lawsuit claiming he and two friends raped an ex-girlfriend while she was intoxicated, the NBA star was asked if he understood the word “consent.”

“No. But can you tell me?” he asked at a deposition in June.

Rose came to court last week with a much better grasp of the word that is central to the \$21 million civil case, though his interpretation of the concept could prove costly.

No one disputes the New York Knicks player and his friends had sex with the woman in her apartment Aug. 27, 2013. The question is whether she gave her consent — as the men claim — or whether she was too incapacitated to do so — as she insists.

There is no commonly accepted definition for consent, which is at the heart of a “patchwork quilt” of evolving laws on rape and sexual assault that in some cases require an affirmative agreement before sex, attorney Rebecca O’Connor said.

“It is murky, and I think that’s where we’re seeing a lot states try to clear the weeds, if you will, and take this on and make it clear,” said O’Connor, a vice president at the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network. “It’s so complicated we can never just say it’s black and white.”

Rape was once defined as intercourse with force against a woman’s will, said Matt Lyon, a law professor at Lincoln Memorial University. Reform efforts in some states led to rape being defined more by the non-consent of the victim than a use of force by the perpetrator.

States such as California have gone further in deciding that consent can be withdrawn during sex and that a victim can be too incapacitated to agree to the act.

“One of the big criticisms against the modernization is the ‘he said, she said,’” Lyon said. “It’s so easy when it’s clear there was force used, but here the woman may say it was rape though there’s no physical evidence of force or that it was done against her will.”

That is the situation in the Rose case, where the woman said she blacked out after drinking earlier in the night and felt drugged after downing a few shots of tequila at Rose’s Beverly Hills mansion. With no physical evidence, the case hinges as much on her credibility as that of the three men.

The woman said she went home from Rose’s place, vomited and woke up around 3 a.m. to find Rose, Ryan Allen and Randall Hampton having sex with her and she was too incapacitated to stop it.

Rose may have been tripped up by the word “consent” in his videotaped deposition, but he tried to recover at trial by defining it as both parties being in agreement. He also connected dots he felt outlined consent, including the woman’s racy texts that started 17 hours earlier saying he made her “horny.”

“Maybe she sent suggestive texts or emails, but that doesn’t prove she consented to it at the time,” said Evan Lee, a law professor at the University of California, Hastings College of Law. “A woman may be willing to have sex 23 hours in the day, but if he has sex in that 24th hour when she’s not willing, then that’s rape if he knows she doesn’t want to.”

Rose testified that he assumed consent based on their sexual history, the fact she had never denied him and because of sex acts she initiated with him and his friends at the Beverly Hills house earlier in the night. He and his friends all said the woman seemed sober and she willingly participated.

When the three men entered her apartment that morning, defense lawyer Mark Baute said in closing arguments Tuesday that she told them “one at a time” and welcomed them with “open arms and open legs.”

The Associated Press is not naming the woman because it generally does not identify people who say they are victims of sexual assault.

Her lawyer argued that the defense concocted a story to show the woman consented through her sexually aggressive behavior, but he said it amounted to blaming the victim.

"It's an attempt to slut shame the plaintiff, which generally happens in these type of cases," attorney Waukeen McCoy said.

The topic of consent and whether someone is too incapacitated to agree to sex have been part of a broader discussion after allegations that Bill Cosby drugged and molested dozens of women over decades and after outrage over a six-month jail sentence for former Stanford swimmer Brock Turner, who sexually assaulted an unconscious woman.

The topic has even crossed into the presidential campaign with the emergence of a 2005 recording of Republican nominee Donald Trump bragging about grabbing women's genitalia and several women accusing him of groping them.

"People are starting to recognize that even if they didn't fit whatever mythological circumstance people think needs to happen in order for it to be rape or sexual assault, that there is in fact that gray area where it's still nonconsensual," O'Connor said. "Even if you wore a skirt or you didn't outwardly force someone off you, this may legally fall into the realm of sexual assault."

10 Things to Know for Wednesday

By The Associated Press

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

1. OBAMA TELLS TRUMP TO 'STOP WHINING'

The president rebuked the Republican nominee, chiding the Republican nominee for sowing suspicion about the integrity of America's presidential vote.

2. WITNESSES BACK PEOPLE WRITER'S ACCOUNT OF TRUMP SEX ASSAULT

People Magazine reports that a half-dozen people have come forward to corroborate its writer's account of being sexually assaulted by Donald Trump and its aftermath

3. OBAMA SAYS ARRIVEDERCI TO STATE DINNERS

Some 400 guests join Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi and the Obamas for a sumptuous, four-course meal — making the final state dinner among the largest of Obama's presidency.

4. ECUADOR SAYS IT 'TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED' ASSANGE'S INTERNET

The WikiLeaks founder's web access at its embassy in London after the whistleblowing site published documents from Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign.

5. WHERE IS FIGHTERS ARE DRIVEN UNDERGROUND

Beneath a farming village east of Mosul that is getting shredded by airstrikes and artillery, Islamic State militants are operating in a network of tunnels.

6. WHAT BOB DYLAN THINKS OF WINNING THE NOBEL

It's anybody's guess. The Nobel judges haven't made any contact with Dylan, and he hasn't mentioned the literature prize during his concerts since the announcement.

7. HOW MUCH POLLUTED WATER THE US AIR FORCE DUMPED

A base in Colorado says it accidentally released about 150,000 gallons of water containing toxic chemicals into the sewer system of the adjacent city of Colorado Springs.

8. MICHIGAN HEALTH CHIEF IS TARGET IN FLINT CRIMINAL PROBE

The state's top health official is a focus in the probe of the water crisis in Flint, where information about elevated lead levels in children was allegedly suppressed.

9. THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE THE SMITHSONIAN

The Smithsonian's National Museum of American History has launched a crowd-funding campaign on Kickstarter to preserve the ruby slippers from the 1939 movie "The Wizard of Oz."

10. WHO SURVIVED IN BASEBALL'S PLAYOFFS

The Toronto Blue Jays, who staved off elimination in the American League Championship Series, beating the Cleveland Indians 5-1.

The Latest: Trump wants term limits for House, Senate

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

7:24 p.m.

Donald Trump says he wants congressional term limits of six years for House members and 12 years for the Senate.

Trump outlined his term limits ideas Tuesday as part of his ongoing emphasis on a proposed federal ethics overhaul.

His vice presidential running mate also mentions Trump's ethics proposals. But Mike Pence didn't mention term limits at all Tuesday during multiple stops in North Carolina.

The Indiana governor happens to be a former member of Congress himself. He served 12 years in the House, twice as long as what his boss now says is appropriate.

7:05 p.m.

Donald Trump's campaign is bringing President Barack Obama's half-brother to the third and final presidential debate on Wednesday.

The campaign confirms that Obama's Kenyan-born half-brother Malik will be in the audience during the final showdown between Trump and rival Hillary Clinton.

Malik tells the New York Post that he's "excited to be at the debate" and says, "Trump can make America great again."

Trump also tells the paper that Malik, "gets it far better than his brother."

The candidates have been using their debate guests as a tool to try to get inside their rivals' heads. Clinton is bringing frequent Trump critic and billionaire Mark Cuban and Hewlett Packard Enterprise CEO Meg Whitman.

Trump invited to the most recent debate three of the women who accused former President Bill Clinton of sexually harassing or assaulting them years ago.

7:00 p.m.

Mike Pence is campaigning on the idea that Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump would run a more ethical administration than Hillary Clinton.

The Republican vice presidential nominee told North Carolina supporters Tuesday that the Wikileaks hack of John Podesta's emails confirms "an avalanche of scandals" and "pay-to-play politics" in Clinton's world.

Trump has proposed barring anyone from federal lobbying activity within five years after leaving a congressional seat, a congressional member's staff or an executive branch post.

Trump also added a call for term limits on members of Congress. Pence didn't discuss that detail in North Carolina. He was a House member for 12 years.

6:33 p.m.

Hillary Clinton's biggest super PAC helper is following her lead and trying to help deliver a Democratic Senate.

Priorities USA says it is beginning television advertisements aimed attacking Pennsylvania Sen. Patrick Toomey and New Hampshire Sen. Kelly Ayotte. The two Republicans are in tight contests with Democratic hopefuls. The ads will also target Clinton's opponent, Donald Trump.

Feeling comfortable with her lead, Clinton has increased her down-ballot focus in these final weeks of the race.

The super political action committee has spent more on TV than anyone other than the Clinton campaign itself. Priorities also said Tuesday that it will spend more than \$1 million trying to make a case to elect her in typically Republican-leaning Georgia.

6:09 p.m.

Donald Trump says the media is "more crooked than crooked Hillary," Clinton, his Democratic presidential

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rival.

The comment in Grand Junction, Colorado, comes as Trump and his running mate, Mike Pence, have complained that the Nov. 8 election is going to be, "rigged." They say there are two reasons: One, the news media is colluding with Clinton by reporting that multiple women accuse him of sexually assaulting them. Trump additionally insists there will be fraud at the polls on Election Day.

Trump earlier advised his supporters to ignore mainstream news outlets and instead "read the internet."

6:06 p.m.

Donald Trump says that he doesn't believe polls showing he's lagging rival Hillary Clinton in Colorado.

Trump tells a rally crowd at an airplane hangar in Grand Junction, Colorado, that everywhere he goes, he draws crowds of thousands and thousands of people.

And he's predicting he'll win one of the greatest victories in political history.

Elections veterans caution that drawing large crowds doesn't equate to winning a general election.

5:55 p.m.

Even Nobel prize winners make very public math mistakes, and this year it happened when they dabbled in presidential politics.

A group of Nobel prize winners sent out a public letter of endorsement of Hillary Clinton for president with a note saying that 70 of them signed on. The letter had 69 signatures.

Oops.

Nobel chemistry prize winner Martin Chalfie of Columbia University said he had left off the 70th Nobel laureate, neuroscientist Paul Greengard of Rockefeller University, because he was late addition. When a reporter pointed out the counting mistake, Chalfie sent out a correction with a math joke:

"There are three types of people in the world: those that can count and those that can't. I am clearly in the latter category."

5:23 p.m.

Mike Pence is joining Donald Trump in relentlessly hammering the national media coverage of the presidential race.

The Republican vice presidential candidate told supporters Tuesday in Wilmington, North Carolina, that the election is not "exactly a fair fight" because "the media out there is doing half of Hillary Clinton's work for her every day."

Pence said the media is busy "chasing other stories" besides controversies surrounding the Democratic nominee. The Indiana governor went on to quote from a front-page USA Today story detailing "the nexus among private companies, Hillary Clinton's State Department and the Clinton Family Foundation."

The Indiana governor then cited ABC News reporting suggesting Hillary Clinton's State Department aides in 2010 played favorites with vendors and other entities during recovery efforts for a Haiti earthquake. The story cited emails showing aides concerned with identifying groups close to former President Bill Clinton.

5:21 p.m.

Donald Trump is encouraging his supporters to ignore the mainstream news media in the final stretch of the presidential race because he believes they're trying to take him down.

Trump tells supporters at a rally in Colorado Springs, Colorado to, "forget the press, read the internet, study other things, don't go for the mainstream media."

He said that, when it comes to the internet, "you do get some dishonesty, too, but at least you can separate. At least you have a choice."

3:23 p.m.

Hillary Clinton's campaign says Donald Trump is warning of a rigged election to distract from bad press

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about his treatment of women and discourage Democratic voters.

Clinton aide Jen Palmieri says Trump is "losing and he wants to blame somebody else — and that's what losers do."

The Clinton campaign says they expect voting to run smoothly. Palmieri says Trump is trying to "turn off" Clinton backers. "They're not gonna be deterred," she says.

3:08 p.m.

Tim Kaine says he's proud Hillary Clinton hasn't "backed away" from the promises she made during the Democratic primary.

The Democratic vice presidential nominee made the comments Tuesday while highlighted Clinton's progressive economic agenda during a speech at a Detroit job training center.

The Virginia senator said he's "proud that Hillary hasn't backed away from the bold, principled commitments that she made when she won a very fairly, and vigorously contested Democratic primary."

Battling Sen. Bernie Sanders in a heated Democratic primary, Clinton tacked left on trade and other economic issues. But in private speeches to Wall Street firms she expressed a philosophy that clashes in some ways with the progressive vision she has articulated while campaigning. The private speeches were disclosed by Wikileaks.

2:58 p.m.

Billionaire Mark Cuban and Hewlett Packard Enterprise CEO Meg Whitman will attend Wednesday's last presidential debate as guests of Hillary Clinton.

Both have been outspoken backers of the Democratic presidential candidate. Cuban is famous for his role on a television game show and has questioned Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump's business acumen. Whitman is one of Clinton's highest-profile Republican backers.

Trump's campaign has invited as a guest Pat Smith, whose son, Sean, was one of four Americans killed during the 2012 attack on the U.S. compound in Benghazi, Libya, when Clinton was President Barack Obama's secretary of state.

Smith gave an emotional speech the Republican National Convention blaming Clinton for her son's death. Republicans have tried to make Benghazi a central issue in the campaign.

2:50 p.m.

Republican vice presidential candidate Mike Pence is struggling to defend his running mate's assertions that the Nov. 8 election will be "rigged."

Pence once again said that Donald Trump was talking about biased media. The Indiana governor was speaking to reporters Tuesday in Hillsborough, North Carolina.

But reporters noted that Trump has made frequent, though unsubstantiated, claims that there will be widespread voter fraud. Pence responded that there have been documented instances of voter fraud in the past. He suggested that Trump is only encouraging his supporters to "respectfully participate" at the polls "to ensure the integrity of the election."

Pence did not directly answer when asked whether the Trump campaign wants more than the long-standing tradition of having poll watchers from the Democratic and Republican parties at every precinct.

2:30 p.m.

People magazine is reporting that six people have come forward to corroborate its former writer's account of being sexually assaulted by Donald Trump.

Trump has denied the accusations by the writer, Natasha Stoyhoff.

Stoyhoff wrote last week that Trump grabbed her and kissed her in 2005 while she was working on a story about the celebrity businessman and his wife for the magazine.

The magazine posted a story Tuesday quoting six of Stoyhoff's friends who say the writer told them about the alleged attack soon after it happened.

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One of them, Liza Herz, said she was with Stoyhoff when she ran into Melania Trump in the weeks after the attack.

Mrs. Trump has denied that she encountered Stoyhoff and has demanded a retraction from the magazine.

2:15 p.m.

Republican vice presidential candidate Mike Pence is condemning the firebombing of a local Republican office in North Carolina as "an act of political terrorism" and "an attack on the American political system."

The Indiana governor on Tuesday toured the charred interior of the Orange County GOP office on his way to two rallies elsewhere in the state.

He praised Republican volunteers Hillsborough, North Carolina, for their "courage and resilience."

Pence noted political figures across the spectrum have condemned the act committed over the weekend. But he complained that national media have paid little attention. He speculated that a similar attack on a Democratic office would get much wider coverage.

No one was hurt, and police are still investigating.

1:48 p.m.

Bill Clinton is headed for North Florida to campaign for his wife in an area that is whiter and more conservative than other parts of the state.

Hillary Clinton's campaign says the former president will start in Orlando on Friday and continue in Jacksonville and the Florida panhandle on Saturday.

It's Bill Clinton's second Florida swing this month. He's also had recent bus tours in Iowa and Ohio.

The former president has a complicated legacy in South Florida's Cuban community because of his handling of the Elian Gonzalez case in 2000. The Clinton administration sided with the young boy's Cuban father in a custody dispute with other relatives in South Florida and returned the boy to the communist island.

1:40 p.m.

Republican vice presidential nominee Mike Pence is visiting a local North Carolina Republican Party office that was damaged by a firebomb.

The Indiana governor is meeting Tuesday with local Orange County Republicans ahead of two rallies elsewhere in North Carolina.

North Carolina has emerged as key battleground and is a must-win state for Republican Donald Trump.

No one was injured in the bombing last weekend. Police are still investigating. Trump and Democrat Hillary Clinton have condemned the attack.

Orange County is a heavily Democratic county at the edge of the Raleigh-Durham metro area. President Barack Obama won 70 percent of the vote there in 2012, though he lost the statewide vote.

Chibok leader: 100-plus girls unwilling to leave Boko Haram

By MICHELLE FAUL and OYEKANMI OLALEKAN, Associated Press

ABUJA, Nigeria (AP) — Nigeria's government is negotiating the release of another 83 of the Chibok schoolgirls taken in a mass abduction two-and-a-half years ago, but more than 100 others appear unwilling to leave their Boko Haram Islamic extremist captors, a community leader said Tuesday.

The unwilling girls may have been radicalized by Boko Haram or are ashamed to return home because they were forced to marry extremists and have babies, chairman Pogu Bitrus of the Chibok Development Association told The Associated Press in a telephone interview.

Bitrus said the 21 Chibok girls freed last week in the first negotiated release between Nigeria's government and Boko Haram should be educated abroad, because they will probably face stigma in Nigeria.

The girls and their parents were reunited Sunday and are expected to meet with Nigeria's President Muhammadu Buhari on Tuesday or Wednesday, Bitrus said. Buhari flew to Germany on an official visit the

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day of the girls' release.

Buhari said Monday that his government is prepared to talk with Boko Haram as long as the extremists agree to involve organizations like the International Committee of the Red Cross, which was an intermediary in last week's release.

Some 276 schoolgirls were kidnapped from a school in northeastern Chibok in April 2014. Dozens escaped early on and at least half a dozen have died in captivity, according to the newly freed girls, Bitrus said.

All those who escaped on their own have left Chibok because, even though they were held only a few hours, they were labelled "Boko Haram wives" and taunted, he said. At least 20 of the girls are being educated in the United States.

"We would prefer that they are taken away from the community and this country because the stigmatization is going to affect them for the rest of their lives," Bitrus said. "Even someone believed to have been abused by Boko Haram would be seen in a bad light."

All Nigerian institutions and the freed girls' communities and families must "stand strong" to "protect them from stigma, ostracization and rejection," the U.N. special rapporteurs on the sale of children, on slavery and on the right to health said in a statement Tuesday.

One Chibok girl, Amina Ali Nkeki, escaped in May. Chibok Parents' Association chairman Yakubu Nkeki said the young woman has been reunited with her freed classmates, all of whom are being treated by doctors, psychologists and trauma counsellors at a hospital in Abuja, Nigeria's capital, run by the Department of State Security, Nigeria's secret service.

Human rights advocates and the Bring Back Our Girls Movement have been asking if the girl is a detainee of the government and have been demanding she be allowed to return home, as she has requested.

One father of a newly freed girl, Emos Lawal, said his daughter was "praying that let the rest of them have the chance to come out."

The freed girls have told their parents they were separated into two groups early on in their captivity, when Boko Haram commanders gave them the choice of joining the extremists and embracing Islam, or becoming their slaves, Bitrus said.

The girls freed and those whose release is being negotiated, numbering 104, are believed to be in the group that rejected Islam and Boko Haram, he explained. The freed girls said they never saw the other girls again.

Bitrus said the freed girls were used as domestic workers and porters but were not sexually abused. He said that was why only one girl in the freed group is carrying a baby, and her parents have confirmed that she was pregnant when she was kidnapped. An aid worker had told The Associated Press that he had seen the girls on their release and that all but three carried babies. Bitrus said that report was incorrect.

Previous negotiators in talks that failed also had corroborated that more than 100 of the girls did not want to return to their parents, Bitrus said.

Chibok is a small and conservative Christian enclave in mainly Muslim northern Nigeria, where many parents are involved in translating the Bible into local languages and belong to the Nigerian branch of the Elgin, Illinois-based Church of the Brethren.

Nigeria's government has denied reports that the girls were swapped for four Boko Haram commanders, or that a large ransom was paid.

Faul reported from Johannesburg. Associated Press writer Haruna Umar in Maiduguri, Nigeria, contributed.

Ecuador: We have 'temporarily restricted' Assange's internet

By GONZALO SOLANO and RAPHAEL SATTER, Associated Press

QUITO, Ecuador (AP) — Ecuador's government acknowledged on Tuesday that it cut off WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange's internet access at its embassy in London after the whistleblowing site published a trove of damaging emails from Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign.

The foreign ministry said that while it stands by its 2012 decision to grant Assange asylum based on

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legitimate concerns he faces political persecution, it respects other nations' sovereignty and doesn't interfere or support any candidate in foreign elections.

"The decision to make this information public is the exclusive responsibility of the WikiLeaks organization," the foreign ministry said in a statement.

The recognition of the action comes less than 24 hours after WikiLeaks tweeted that Ecuador had cut off Assange's access to the internet on Saturday after the publication of Clinton's speeches to Wall Street investment bank Goldman Sachs.

In follow-up messages posted Tuesday, the group claimed U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry had personally intervened to ask Ecuador to stop Assange from publishing documents about Clinton. Citing "multiple US sources," WikiLeaks said the request was made on the sidelines of a visit by Kerry and Ecuadorean President Rafael Correa last month to Colombia to show their support for a peace deal with leftist rebels.

The State Department denied the allegation and Correa's leftist government said it was acting on its own and not ceding to foreign pressures. The foreign ministry didn't specify the extent of the "temporary restrictions" on Assange, saying only that they wouldn't affect WikiLeaks' ability to carry out its journalistic activities.

"While our concerns about Wikileaks are longstanding, any suggestion that Secretary Kerry or the State Department were involved in shutting down Wikileaks is false," U.S. State Department spokesman John Kirby said in an email. Speaking to reporters later, deputy spokesman Mark Toner said Kerry never even raised the issue or met with Correa during his visit to Colombia.

"There just was no meeting," he said. "They didn't discuss any of this stuff."

Assange has been holed up at the modest embassy suite at No. 3 Hans Crescent for more than four years after skipping bail to avoid extradition to Sweden over sex crimes allegations, a position which — until now — hasn't prevented him from continuing to play a pivotal role in exposing state secrets and backroom trade deals.

WikiLeaks said unspecified "contingency plans" were in place and the site and its Twitter feed appeared to be working as usual. On Tuesday it released another tranche of emails from Clinton campaign chairman John Podesta, suggesting that the group's ability to publish has yet to be compromised.

The disclosure was the 11th installation in a series of leaks that have captured the workings of Clinton's inner circle. Those leaks themselves are part of a wider cascade that have embarrassed the Democratic Party and which the American intelligence community has recently described as an attempt by the Russian government to interfere in the U.S. election.

Staff at WikiLeaks and the embassy either declined comment or didn't return messages.

Assange fled to the Ecuadorean Embassy on June 19, 2012, after a drawn-out and ultimately unsuccessful legal battle to being sent to Sweden, where he remains wanted over an allegation of rape. Ecuador granted him asylum, but British authorities have made clear they would arrest him if he tried to leave. London's Metropolitan Police used to maintain a visible presence outside the building, although officers were nowhere in sight when an AP journalist visited on Tuesday.

Assange has carved out a life at Hans Crescent, dining on delivered food, welcoming famous well-wishers and even occasionally addressing the media from the embassy's balcony. On Saturday, former television star Pamela Anderson paid a visit.

But evidence of mutual suspicion with his hosts surfaced after BuzzFeed News drew on leaked documents to detail tensions between Assange and Ecuadorean embassy staff.

In targeting Clinton, Assange may have run afoul of Correa's own preference for the Democratic candidate and a renewed effort to repair strained relations with Washington. The president recently said that while a Trump victory would energize Latin Americans to reject overhanded U.S. policies in the world much in the way George W. Bush's invasion of Iraq did he personally would like to see Clinton prevail.

"For the good of the United States and the world, and for my personal appreciation of her, I'd like to see Hillary win," he told the Moscow-backed RT broadcaster last month.

Assange isn't likely to submit to the internet ban quietly. Over the weekend WikiLeaks released three lines of code it described as "pre-commitments," labeling them "John Kerry," "Ecuador," and "FCO" — an

apparent reference to Britain's Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Pre-commitments are cryptographic functions that can be used to verify the integrity of material released subsequently.

Thomas White, a U.K.-based security researcher and transparency activist, saw the posts as a warning to the named parties that WikiLeaks had ammunition in reserve if Ecuadorean authorities "do not continue to offer him political asylum."

Joshua Goodman in Bogota, Colombia, Matt Lee in Washington and Alastair Grant in London contributed to this report. Satter reported from Paris.

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FBI, State Dept. official say no talk of email quid pro quo

By MICHAEL BIESECKER and ERIC TUCKER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A now-retired FBI agent and a State Department official involved in a discussion over the classification of information in one of former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's emails said Tuesday they had discussed mutual agency requests but had not linked the two as a bargain, as another FBI employee had reported.

The two men's accounts of a 2015 conversation were not identical and will likely not calm the furor over allegations of the State Department trying to arrange a "quid pro quo" to reduce the classification of an email from Clinton's private server in exchange for more FBI positions at the U.S. Embassy in Iraq. The issue was thrust into the presidential campaign Monday when the FBI published documents containing the allegation, which has been seized upon by Republican lawmakers and GOP presidential nominee Donald Trump.

In a statement released by the State Department, Under Secretary for Management Patrick Kennedy said he had called the agent, who was not named in the FBI documents but was identified by The Washington Post as Brian McCauley, "to better understand a proposal the FBI had made to upgrade one of former Secretary Clinton's emails prior to its public release."

Kennedy said he and other State Department officials wanted an explanation of the upgrade, which they believed was unnecessary.

"The FBI official I spoke to raised the topic of FBI Iraq slots as an entirely separate matter," Kennedy said. "The two matters were not linked. There was no quid pro quo, nor was there any bargaining. At no point in our conversation was I under the impression we were bargaining. In the end, State upgraded the email at the FBI's request and in addition, no increase in FBI Iraq slots resulted from this conversation."

Kennedy was a close aide to Clinton during her tenure as the nation's top diplomat between 2009 and early 2013. He had served in his position since November 2007, under President George W. Bush. In his statement, he denied any political motive in making the call.

In an interview with The Washington Post, McCauley, the former FBI international operations official, recalled a 2015 phone call in which he said the two men each raised something that they wanted.

"He said: 'Brian. Pat Kennedy. I need a favor,'" McCauley told the Post. "I said: 'Good, I need a favor. I need our people back in Baghdad.'"

According to McCauley's account, Kennedy replied: "There's an email. I don't believe it has to be classified."

McCauley acknowledged to the Post that he had agreed to do a favor for Kennedy, but he said that after consulting with another FBI official about the email in question, he told Kennedy that he was unable to help him. He said there was no "collusion" between the two men and nothing improper occurred.

McCauley did not immediately respond to a phone message left in the mailbox of a company, Brainwave Science, that named him to its advisory board earlier this year.

The use of the phrase "quid pro quo" actually arises in a separate interview with a different FBI official from the bureau's records management division.

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That official, whose name is redacted in the documents, relayed to the FBI a conversation between Kennedy and a colleague in the international operations division — presumably McCauley — that was characterized as a “quid pro quo” agreement to change the email’s classification status in exchange for allowing the FBI to place more agents in countries where they are currently forbidden, according to a summary of the interview.

The email in question described reports in November 2012 that Libyan police were arresting suspects in the attack on U.S. facilities in Benghazi, Libya. It had been forwarded to Clinton’s private email address by Jake Sullivan, one of her top aides and the department’s director of policy planning, who was using his government email account.

The Associated Press reported the existence of the secret Benghazi-related email in May 2015, though the classified content of the document has never been made public. At the time, administration officials acknowledged interagency disagreements about whether certain information in the emails was classified.

Although the State Department and FBI denied there had been a quid pro quo, Republicans seized on the report as collusion within the Obama administration to protect Clinton, now the Democratic presidential nominee.

“CORRUPTION CONFIRMED: FBI confirms State Dept. offered ‘quid pro quo’ to cover up classified emails,” read a tweet from Team Trump, retweeted by the candidate.

Clinton spokesman Brian Fallon said the campaign had never been part of any such discussion about email classifications.

House Republicans said Monday the reports of behind-the-scenes maneuvering with the FBI were “extremely disturbing.”

“Those who receive classified intelligence should not barter in it — that is reckless behavior with our nation’s secrets,” House Oversight and Government Reform Committee Chairman Jason Chaffetz, R-Utah, and House Intelligence Committee Chairman Devin Nunes, R-Calif., said in a joint statement.

The ambiguities laid bare in the FBI documents — summaries of interviews — are fairly standard for criminal investigations, where different witnesses offer different accounts of the same interaction and agents and prosecutors behind closed doors are left to try to determine the truth.

The summaries being released in this case reflect what witnesses told agents without presenting an agreed upon or easily reconcilable narrative. In promising extraordinary transparency in the Clinton email investigation, FBI Director James Comey authorized the release of interview summaries and agents’ notes that are almost never seen by the public — particularly in cases that close without charges.

Associated Press writer Matthew Lee contributed to this report.

Follow AP writer Michael Biesecker at <http://twitter.com/mbieseck>

‘Stop whining,’ Obama tells Trump, chiding for fraud talk

By KEVIN FREKING and KATHLEEN HENNESSEY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — “Stop whining,” President Barack Obama rebuked Donald Trump on Tuesday, speaking out as seldom before on next month’s election and chiding the Republican for sowing suspicion about the integrity of America’s presidential vote.

Obama also accused Trump of cozying up to Russia’s Vladimir Putin to a degree “unprecedented in American politics.”

The president said Trump’s intensifying pre-emptive warnings about voter fraud are unheard of in modern politics. The rhetoric is not based on any evidence, Obama said, but is simply aimed at discrediting the outcome before the first votes are counted.

“You start whining before the game is even over?” Obama said at a Rose Garden news conference. “If whenever things are going badly for you and you lose you start blaming somebody else — then you don’t have what it takes to be in this job.”

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Campaigning in Colorado, the GOP candidate repeated his assertions about "corrupt" elections but did not respond directly to the president. Trump vowed to "drain the swamp" in Washington, and for the first time promised to push for a constitutional amendment to impose term limits on all members of Congress.

The president's remarks came as Trump and his Republican allies look for ways to regain momentum after a damaging few weeks in the campaign. Heading into the third and final debate Wednesday night, Trump is trailing in the polls and running out of time for a comeback before Nov. 8.

Obama waded into the race to elect a successor, speaking at the White House where he was hosting his final state visit. Italy's Prime Minister Matteo Renzi at his side, the president initially said he would pull his punches when it came to politics, respecting the official setting. But when he was asked about Trump's rhetoric, he hardly held back.

"I would invite Mr. Trump to stop whining and go try to make his case to get votes," he said.

The GOP candidate has ramped up warnings about potential fraud. That's drawing criticism not only from Democrats but from his own party, particularly the state and county officials who run local elections, who fear the rhetoric will give losers license to dispute any results.

"They even want to try and rig the election at the polling booth, where so many cities are corrupt and you see that and voter fraud is all too common," Trump said at a rally in Colorado Springs.

Independent studies and election officials in both parties say they see no evidence that voter fraud — individuals impersonating others to cast ballots — is a widespread problem.

Asked about Trump's claims on Tuesday, running mate Mike Pence dodged and suggested Trump's point actually was about the "overwhelming bias in the national media."

Pence spoke after touring the burned-out offices of the Republican Party in Hillsborough, North Carolina. The GOP office was firebombed over the weekend in what Pence called an "act of political terrorism." Trump pointed at Clinton supporters, but Pence did not assign blame. Police are investigating.

Clinton held no public events Tuesday while she prepared for the debate. She has her own troubles and is certain to be asked about the latest revelations involving her use of a private email server during her time as secretary of state.

New FBI documents released Monday revived questions about whether she received classified information and whether State Department allies sought to protect her from criticism over the email arrangement.

The FBI notes show a State Department official asked the FBI to lower the classification of a sensitive email found on her server. The email was related to the attack on the U.S. compound in Benghazi, Libya.

The documents revealed discussion of a "quid pro quo" in trying to get the email reclassified, though it's not clear who first raised the issue. Both State and FBI officials deny any bargaining took place, and the email was not declassified.

Trump called it an "elaborate and deliberate cover-up" and called for the State Department official, Undersecretary for Management Patrick F. Kennedy, to be fired.

The Republican is hoping to turn the conversation away from the allegations of sexual misconduct that partly dominated his last debate against Clinton.

In an interview with Fox News aired Tuesday, Melania Trump vouched for her husband and blamed the accusations on political rivals: "They want to damage the presidency of my husband, and it was all planned, it was all organized from the opposition."

Her comments carried echoes of Clinton's allegations of a "vast right-wing conspiracy" organized to raise similar allegations against her husband two decades ago. Trump notably tried to revive Bill Clinton's history by inviting his accusers to the last debate. His guest list for Wednesday's faceoff in Las Vegas includes Pat Smith, whose son, Sean Smith, was killed in the attack in Benghazi. Smith was a featured speaker at the Republican National Convention, where she delivered an emotional speech blaming Clinton for her son's death.

As for Russia, Obama accused Trump of showering praise and modeling his policies on Russian President Putin to a degree that is "unprecedented in American politics."

He said he has been "surprised and troubled" by Republican lawmakers who he said are echoing their

presidential nominee's positions. Trump has praised Putin as a strong leader and criticized Obama and Clinton for Washington's deteriorating relationship with Moscow.

In an interview Monday, Trump said Russia "can't stand" either Democrat. He promised a closer relationship with Putin, if elected, starting with a possible meeting before Inauguration Day.

Associated Press writers Jill Colvin in Colorado Springs, Colorado; Michael Biesecker and Eric Tucker in Washington. Hennessey reported from Washington.

Retaken villages show IS increasingly driven underground

By SUSANNAH GEORGE and BRAM JANSSEN, Associated Press

BADANA, Iraq (AP) — This farming village east of Mosul was turned into a bunker during more than two years of Islamic State rule: A network of tunnels and cramped living quarters betrays an extremist group increasingly forced to operate underground by a punishing air campaign and mounting territorial losses.

Wrested from IS control on the first day of the offensive to retake Iraq's second-largest city, Badana offers a glimpse of the battle ahead. Above ground, walls were shredded by airstrikes and artillery, homes were stained black with soot and the buildings still standing had been looted.

Below ground, bags of fresh vegetables lay on the floor of a cooking area and a bowl of eggs sat beside a crude stove, suggesting the fighters managed to maintain supply lines up until days before their defeat.

"They spent their lives in these tunnels," said Tahseen Muhammed Sharif, a 35-year-old Kurdish fighter who said the Kurdish forces who drove the militants out of the village also found ammunition inside the tunnel network, which they seized.

"I can't imagine living like this," he added, sifting through kitchen refuse beside a pot of chickpeas still sitting on the stove. "There is a definite difference between us and them — their behavior, it's outside human behavior."

A small unit of Iraqi Kurdish fighters tasked with holding the territory in and around Badana, were camped Tuesday in a field behind a row of armored vehicles on the village's edge. While free of IS fighters, the area remains littered with dozens of booby-trapped explosives. Kurdish fighters moving along the narrow village roads stuck to paths they had already used and walked in single file.

When Iraqi forces reach Mosul, Patrick Martin of the Institute for the Study of War in Washington said they should expect to see similar complex defenses like the tunnel networks and booby-trapped explosives in Badana, but on a much greater scale.

"They're making sure that whenever the operation to retake the city commences it will be extremely difficult for the security forces to do so," Martin said, adding that while there are reports of some IS fighters fleeing Mosul, the group has also displayed a willingness to defend the city by mobilizing car bombs, suicide bombers and building trenches.

When IS fighters moved into the territory around Mosul more than two years ago, the group attacked with convoys that traversed the open desert and held parades in the city center. Now, faced with punishing airstrikes by the U.S.-led coalition, the fighters have been forced to change tactics, melting into civilian populations and building networks of tunnels under residential areas so they could move without being seen from above.

After a string of victories over the past year, Iraqi ground forces have pushed IS out of more than half the territory the group once held in Iraq, with close support from the U.S.-led coalition. Now, with the launch of the campaign to retake Mosul, the extremists' main stronghold, Iraqi forces are again operating under coalition air cover.

During the first day of the operation, the most complex for Iraq's military since the withdrawal of U.S. troops in 2011, Kurdish forces say they retook nine villages and pushed the frontline back eight kilometers (five miles).

But like Badana, those villages were almost completely empty of civilians, allowing coalition warplanes to largely clear the territory from the air.

In the center of the village on Tuesday, a group of Kurdish fighters gathered around the bodies of two

IS militants killed in an airstrike a day earlier, some crouching down to snap selfies.

Lt. Col. Fariq Hama Faraj said he and his men celebrated their victory the day before and have since received orders that they will not advance any further in the Mosul fight.

"Our task is finished," he said, adding that he doesn't believe this will be the last time he fights the Islamic State group.

"They will come back with a new name and they'll be more extreme and more barbaric," he said, ducking a downed power line as he walked through the ruined village back to his camp.

"If you look to the history of these organizations we see that each one is more extreme than the last."

In Mosul, residents report new terrors as Iraqi forces near

By **SINAN SALAHEDDIN** and **JOSEPH KRAUSS**, Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — On the eerily quiet streets of Mosul, fighters from the Islamic State group are killing suspected spies, blocking roads and planting bombs ahead of a showdown with Iraqi forces.

Residents who have endured more than two years of militant rule describe a city under siege, and they say a new sense of terror has set in since Iraq announced the start of a long-anticipated operation to liberate its second-largest city.

Three residents who spoke with The Associated Press by telephone described a ghost town where people only venture out to buy basic goods that are increasingly running low.

They said large groups of IS militants have left the city in recent weeks, but those who remain have become increasingly brutal, killing anyone suspected of trying to communicate with the outside world. For that reason, the residents spoke on condition of anonymity, fearing for their safety.

"The situation inside Mosul is terrifying," said one of them, a merchant. He said he has stocked food, water and cooking gas for 40 days and bought an oven to bake bread.

IS released a propaganda video Tuesday showing bustling streets in Mosul, with residents going about their business, with one grilling meat over open coals, and saying all is well.

The individuals who spoke to the AP painted a very different picture.

They say IS militants patrol Mosul's streets on bicycles or motorbikes to make for smaller targets from the air. Other fighters are preparing for war by closing roads with sand berms and concrete walls, and readying barrels of oil and tires to set ablaze in order to obscure the visibility of warplanes from the U.S.-led coalition.

The extremists also have grown increasingly paranoid and violent. On Sunday evening, a resident said the fighters shot a man twice in the head in front of his family and neighbors. His crime: possession of a SIM card for a cellphone.

A few days earlier, five men accused of spying were killed by a firing squad in a public square.

Mosul is completely dark at night because IS forbids the use of any generators, fearing the lights could draw airstrikes.

"Every minute passes like a year," said a father of three.

Residents heard about the start of the offensive on the radio, he said, with the city rattled by airstrikes on its outskirts.

"We have mixed feelings. We are happy that we will eventually be liberated from Daesh and afraid of what will happen afterward," the father said, using the Arabic acronym for IS.

"The recent airstrikes are really shaking the ground and houses," another resident said. "My wife prays and recites verses from the holy Quran when airstrikes start, while children cry. We are afraid that one of these airstrikes might hit us."

Fearing a mass exodus from the city, which is still home to 1 million people, the coalition has dropped leaflets telling people to stay inside. Human rights groups worry many will run from Mosul to other areas held by IS out of fear they could be treated even worse by their purported liberators.

"A lot of people are going to flee," said Berkis Wille, the senior Iraq researcher for Human Rights Watch, which also is in contact with people inside the city. "A lot of them are extremely fearful of what the battle

might bring.”

That’s because the array of forces converging on Mosul, a mainly Sunni Arab city, includes government-sanctioned Shiite militias who have been accused of abuses in Sunni areas, as well as newly formed fighting units from minority groups like the Yazidis who were brutalized by IS.

Sunni Arabs who stayed in Mosul under IS rule fear they will be treated like supporters of the extremist group, Wille said. They point to the recapture of Ramadi, which was almost entirely reduced to rubble, and Fallujah, where rights groups say hundreds of men fleeing the city were detained or tortured, or simply disappeared.

Amnesty International said in a report released Tuesday that thousands of Sunni Arabs fleeing areas held by IS have been subjected to abuses by paramilitary and government forces. It highlighted an incident in which 12 men and boys were shot and killed outside Fallujah after surrendering to men wearing military and federal police uniforms; another 73 men and boys from the same tribe are still missing, it added.

The London-based group cited an incident in Saqlawiya, also near Fallujah, in which militiamen seized about 1,300 men and older boys. Three days later, more than 600 were transferred to local officials bearing signs of torture.

“Survivors interviewed by Amnesty International said they were held at an abandoned farmhouse, beaten with various objects, including shovels, and denied food and water,” the group said. It said the report was based on interviews with more than 470 former detainees, witnesses and relatives of those killed, missing or detained.

When asked about the Amnesty report at a news conference, Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi said he had not read it and expressed skepticism about previous reports of such abuses by rights groups.

Iraq has “zero tolerance toward human rights violations, and we insist on this,” he said. “The government is taking every step to prevent and stop human rights violations, by either security forces or other forces. And we have made people accountable for their crimes.”

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Follow Joseph Krauss on Twitter at www.twitter.com/josephkrauss

A surprisingly high number of first-timers now buying homes

By JOSH BOAK, AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — For years, the U.S. housing market looked bleak for young couples hoping to buy their first homes but struggling with high student debt, low pay and meager down-payment savings.

But a new survey by the real estate firm Zillow suggests that first-time buyers may be entering the market in greater numbers than industry watchers had assumed.

Over the past year, the survey found, nearly half of home sales have gone to first-timers. That’s a much higher proportion than some other industry estimates had indicated. And it comes as a surprise in part because ownership rates for adults under 34 are at their lowest levels since the government began tracking the figure in 1994.

Zillow’s survey results suggest that the trend is shifting, and that some of this year’s growth in home sales has come from a wave of college-educated couples in their 30s, who are the most common first-time buyers.

They are people like Natasja Handy, a 32-year-old lawyer and new mother. She and her husband, a doctor, are about to close on their first home in the Northeast section of Washington, D.C. — a row house with about 1,900 square feet that cost \$720,000.

The couple worked with brokers at Redfin and made a 5 percent down payment after having lost two bids on other homes.

“We waited a very long time to purchase our first house,” Handy said. “We’ve always felt like we were giving someone else our money, instead of putting it into something we own.”

In suburban Minneapolis, few first-time buyers have enough savings for a down payment, and many rely

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on gifts or loans from relatives, said Marcus Johannes, an agent with Edina Realty.

"Most of my people, they get funds from family," he said. "They get creative tapping 401(k)s."

If the pattern in Zillow's survey holds, it could raise hopes that today's vast generation of 18-to-34-year-old millennials will help support the housing market as more of them move into their 30s.

The 168-page report that Seattle-based Zillow released Tuesday also found that home ownership is increasingly the domain of the college-educated. And it reported that older Americans who are looking to downsize are paying premiums for smaller houses.

Here's a breakdown of Zillow's key findings:

— Forty-seven percent of purchases in the past year went to first-time buyers. Their median age was 33. By contrast, surveys from the National Association of Realtors have indicated that first-timers account for only about 32 percent of buyers.

The difference between the two surveys may stem from their methodologies. The NAR has used a mail-based survey for its annual figures. Zillow used an online survey that might have generated a greater response rate from younger buyers.

Zillow's findings might help explain a persistent shortage of homes for sale: Unlike move-up buyers, first-time purchasers don't have a home to list for sale, thereby depriving the market of supply.

Adam DeSanctis, an NAR spokesman, noted that his organization's own survey, due out later this month, will show a rising share of first-time buyers, though it will remain below the historical average of 39 percent that's prevailed since the organization began tracking this figure in 1982.

DeSanctis noted that government figures show home ownership among young adults remain at its lowest level in history, which is why his organization is skeptical that nearly half of sales go to first-time buyers.

— No college? Dwindling chance of homeownership

It's become harder to realize the dream of home ownership without a college degree. Sixty-two percent of buyers have at least a four-year college degree. Census figures show that just 33 percent of the U.S. adults graduated from college. The gap between the education levels of homebuyers and the broader U.S. population indicates that workers with only a high school degree are becoming less likely to own a home. In 1986, just 12 percent of homeowners were college graduates, according to government figures.

— Millennial home buyers are increasingly Hispanic

Out of the 74 million U.S. households that own their homes, a sizable majority — 77 percent — are white. But these demographics are changing fast. Only 66 percent of millennial homeowners are white. The big gains have come from Latinos, who make up 17 percent of millennial homeowners but just 9 percent of all homeowners.

Asians also make up a greater share of millennials. This means that as today's millennial generation ages, the housing market may look considerably more diverse than it does now.

— Older Americans aren't just downsizing; they're also upgrading.

The so-called "silent generation" — those ages 65 to 75— bought homes in the past year with a median size of just 1,800 square feet, about 220 square feet smaller than the homes they sold. But that smaller new home still cost more. These retirement-age buyers paid a median of \$250,000, nearly \$30,000 more than the home they sold. In some cases, the higher purchase price likely reflects the profits from the sale of their previous home, in other cases a desire by upscale buyers for luxury finishes and amenities.

— Starter homes are no longer popular.

When millennials buy, they're leapfrogging past the traditional, smaller starter home. This younger generation paid a median of \$217,000 for a 1,800-square-foot house. That median is nearly identical to what older generations buy.

Across the United States, the typical home costs \$222,000, has three bedrooms, 2½ baths and 1,900 square feet. For someone with children at home, that figure swells to 2,000 square feet and a median price of \$234,000.

AP Business Writer Alex Veiga contributed from Los Angeles.

Warren builds political capital _ to what post-election end?

By ERICA WERNER, AP Congressional Correspondent

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — From liberal California to conservative Missouri, there are few places Sen. Elizabeth Warren won't go this election season. The Massachusetts Democrat is campaigning for Hillary Clinton, for Senate Democratic candidates and for liberal policies.

And she's banking political capital that she could end up spending in ways that make Clinton and other Democratic leaders uncomfortable.

Already Warren has been laying down markers for Clinton, in public and private, to consider activist progressives over Wall Street allies for appointments to key financial positions like Treasury secretary. The months to come will tell whether Warren serves as ally, antagonist, or both, to a new Democratic president and leadership in Congress.

Warren's stature has never been more evident. The wind-down of Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders' presidential campaign has left her onstage as arguably the most influential liberal politician in the country.

She gets rock-star treatment from Democrats everywhere she goes. "This is bucket list territory. ... She is a hero!" Judy Baker, Democratic candidate for Missouri state treasurer, shouted to an excited crowd in Kansas City, Missouri, before Warren appeared last Friday with Senate candidate Jason Kander.

She's emerged as one of Donald Trump's most pointed antagonists, attacking him over Twitter and goading him into labeling her Pocahontas, a reference to her disputed claim of Native American heritage.

And hacked emails from Clinton's campaign chairman, John Podesta, show just how anxious the Clinton team has been about keeping her happy. In one email, campaign manager Robby Mook frets about how it would be "such a big deal" for an early meeting between Warren and Clinton to go well. In another exchange, Clinton adviser Dan Schwerin details a lengthy meeting with Warren's top aide, Dan Geldon, in which Geldon makes the case for progressive appointments to financial positions.

It all underscores Warren's role as what allies call the "north star" of the Democratic Party. Thanks to Sanders' candidacy and her influence, many Democrats say the party's center of gravity has moved to the left, away from centrist policies on health care and entitlements in favor of embracing expanded Social Security, a higher minimum wage, debt-free college and a new government insurance option in Obama's health law.

Now the question is how Warren, 67, will use her influence if Clinton becomes president. With Sen. Chuck Schumer set to become the Democratic leader in the Senate, the party would have two New Yorkers with Wall Street ties in top roles.

At the same time, a whole group of Democratic senators from red states like North Dakota, West Virginia and Montana will be up for election in 2018. Will liberal policies on wages, tuition and other issues resonate in those states?

"The way I see this, Hillary Clinton has run on the most progressive agenda in decades, so I think it's the job of progressives like me to help her get elected on that agenda and then help her enact that agenda," Warren said in a brief phone interview Friday in Missouri.

As for her advocacy on appointments, Warren said: "There's no 'hell no' list. But I'll say the same thing publicly that I've said privately — personnel is policy. Hillary Clinton needs a team around her that is ambitious about using the tools of government to make this economy work better for middle class families. That happens only if she has the right people around her."

As a freshman senator in the political minority, Warren has found creative ways to use her influence outside the creaky legislative process. She's gone public to needle the executive branch for action on issues like overtime rules and for-profit colleges, getting results. After she lectured the chief executive of Wells Fargo and told him to resign, he did.

Within the insular confines of the Senate, according to lawmakers and staff, Warren is more popular than the gruff Sanders. She is willing to listen, collaborate, and compromise. She uses her star power judiciously. During budget negotiations last month, for example, she pushed Democratic leaders to use must-pass legislation to undo a measure supported by Majority Leader Mitch McConnell that blocks the

SEC from requiring corporations to disclose political spending.

The effort was ultimately unsuccessful, but Warren's advocacy kept the issue alive through final negotiations and likely ensures that it comes back up again.

Many Democrats would like to see Warren run for president someday, even four years from now, but if Warren is thinking that far ahead she is not saying. She may have a political contest closer to home: Former Red Sox star Curt Schilling said in an interview on WPRO radio in Providence, Rhode Island, Tuesday that he will run against Warren in 2018, if he gets permission from his wife.

Either way the ideas she advocates are at the center of the national debate and could be so for election cycles to come.

"Part of what independent voters want and swing voters want is conviction and a willingness to stand up to powerful interests," said Democratic Sen. Brian Schatz of Hawaii. "So you probably won't be running in a red state as a full-on Elizabeth Warren Democrat, but you may well be running on some of her ideas."

Clinton team's surprise most valuable player? Michelle Obama

By CATHERINE LUCEY and DARLENE SUPERVILLE, Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Hillary Clinton was always expected to get a late-campaign enthusiasm boost from the White House. The surprise is that it's not coming from the president.

On a star-studded team of campaign surrogates — including President Barack Obama — the most valuable player of 2016 is undoubtedly first lady Michelle Obama.

During a divisive political year, the hugely popular first lady has wowed voters with her powerful rhetoric. And she can be the emotional center to a campaign whose candidate is not known for projecting warmth.

Last week, in a searing indictment of Republican nominee Donald Trump that was broadcast live by cable news networks, Michelle Obama said his recorded boasts about making unwanted sexual advances toward women had "shaken me to my core in a way that I couldn't have predicted."

With that, the first lady spoke in terms that Hillary Clinton rarely does, given accusations against her own husband that he's long denied — but Trump has raised.

"If Hillary Clinton were out there making these same arguments, we know how Donald Trump would respond, by attacking former President Clinton and bringing up old stories from the 90s," said Democratic strategist Lis Smith.

Michelle Obama also had one of the most memorable lines of the Democratic National Convention, saying her family motto is: "When they go low, we go high."

Clinton has repeated that line in public several times since.

"Michelle Obama is seen as a truly authentic voice that whatever topic she speaks on, people feel that it's really coming from her bones," said Democratic strategist Mary Anne Marsh.

To the Clinton campaign, Michelle Obama is a crucial asset who can connect with the Democratic base — particularly young people — but also reach independent and undecided voters. That was clear on Monday, when the campaign signaled a push into traditionally Republican Arizona by announcing that the first lady would host an early-vote rally in Phoenix on Thursday.

"There is no more powerful advocate for our campaign," said Clinton communications director Jennifer Palmieri. "Because the first lady isn't seen as a political figure, when she does speak out, it has a real impact."

Even among Clinton's so-called "uber-surrogates" — the president, Vice President Joe Biden, former President Bill Clinton, Sen. Bernie Sanders and Sen. Elizabeth Warren — Michelle Obama has stood out. Once a reluctant campaigner, she has grown more comfortable after more than eight years on the national stage, promoting her childhood obesity and education initiatives, hosting her own events and showing a playful side on talk shows and in interviews.

"Either she's Meryl Streep, or she's really genuine about this," said Robert Watson, an American studies professor at Lynn University. "In this year of plastic candidates, Michelle just seems the most genuine one out there."

Still, political analysts said the intensity of her advocacy for Clinton is notable.

"It's unusual for a sitting first lady, or a sitting president for that matter, to campaign so enthusiastically for a presidential candidate. They usually take a lower profile approach. This is indicative of how important both Obamas think this election is," said Katherine Jellison, chair of the history department at Ohio University, who studies the first ladies.

Anita McBride, a veteran of three Republican administrations, said Mrs. Obama's schedule is more flexible at this stage of the administration because she has held the final events for some of her biggest initiatives.

"It's sort of wrapping up time where's it's never wrapping up time for the president," said McBride, who was chief of staff to first lady Laura Bush. "He still has everything coming to his desk every day. Now it's all about preserving the legacy and giving everything she can to the person she thinks can best reflect their values."

So far this fall, Michelle Obama has campaigned in Virginia, Pennsylvania, North Carolina and New Hampshire. She has done radio and television ads, including a television spot targeting early voters in Iowa, Ohio and Nevada. Arizona is up next, with more appearances expected after that.

With three weeks until the Nov. 8 election, Clinton is leading in many national and battleground state polls as the race has been largely overwhelmed by Trump's inflammatory rhetoric and past sexual comments. Clinton is still contending with the slow release of hacked emails that have raised questions about her relationship to Wall Street and inner campaign workings, and will likely be asked about it when she and Trump debate one final time on Wednesday night, but Trump has taken up much of the spotlight.

Michelle Obama so far is one of the few to escape the wrath of Trump, who has spoken harshly about various voting groups, his own Republican leaders and, lately, the women who have accused him of sexual misconduct.

"I can't think of a bolder way for Donald Trump to lose even more standing than he already has by engaging the first lady of the United States," said White House spokesman Eric Schultz.

Obama praises Italian leader for 'bold' leadership

By KEVIN FREKING, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Seeking to boost a close ally, President Barack Obama threw his support Tuesday behind efforts that Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi is taking to overhaul that country's political system and enhance its economy, saying that Renzi's "bold" and "progressive" leadership was exactly what Europe needs at a time of crisis and soul-searching.

Obama invited Renzi to the White House for the final official visit and state dinner of his presidency, telling hundreds of spectators at the arrival ceremony that "we saved the best for last."

Throughout Tuesday's events, the two leaders recited a long list of issues on which they agree. They want to speed economic growth through investments in infrastructure and to move forward with a sweeping trade agreement between the U.S. and the European Union. They also spoke of the importance of strengthening the NATO alliance and the need to maintain sanctions against Russia in place until that nation and Ukraine implement commitments under a ceasefire agreement brokered early last year.

Beyond action on specific issues, Obama clearly sought to use the symbolism behind Tuesday's visit to show support for a leader that Obama views as one of the most promising young politicians in Europe. The star treatment came just a few weeks before voters in Italy take up a governing referendum that Renzi has spearheaded. He has said he would resign if voters reject it.

While Renzi declined to directly answer whether he would follow through on that statement if the referendum is voted down, Obama did and said, "I am rooting for success, but I think you should hang around for a while no matter what."

Obama kicked the White House apparatus into high gear. The sound of herald trumpets and a full dose of pomp and pageantry on the South Lawn were orchestrated to welcome Renzi, one of the few world leaders to receive such a reception from the White House.

After each leader spoke, they hugged briefly and patted each other on the back.

"I mean, look at him," Obama gushed. "He's young, handsome. He's put forth a vision of progress that's not rooted in people's fears, but rather in their hopes. "

Renzi, seemingly nodding to the divisive presidential election in the U.S. next month and the United Kingdom's decision to exit the European Union, said, "I think there are a lot of people who think that politics is only about screaming, fighting each other. Hate creates division. You are different, Mr. President. We are different."

The two leaders moved from the arrival ceremony to the Oval Office for private meetings. They emerged for a joint news conference in the Rose Garden and again sought to emphasize strong relations between their two nations. Obama said America has many strong allies around the world but that few are as strong, reliable and capable as the boot-shaped country. "In good times and in bad, we count on each other," Obama said.

Meanwhile, Renzi said he'd copied Obama by creating a "jobs act" modeled after the stimulus legislation that Obama pushed when he came into office. Renzi said the initiative had created significant jobs in economically challenged Italy, calling it "at least a first step to leave our difficult situation."

"I want to thank the United States of America for the extraordinary support for the battle that Italy is having in our country, within Europe, to affirm a paradigm of growth and not only of austerity at all levels," Renzi said.

Europe has faced some tough times in the past few years, with sluggish growth and a refugee crisis spawned by the conflict in the Middle East contributing to an undercurrent of anti-European Union sentiment. Obama said Renzi's agenda is important to long-term U.S. interests.

The arrival ceremony marked the beginning of a daylong visit that will be capped with a lavish state dinner in a tent on the South Lawn for approximately 400 guests. Celebrity chef Mario Batali is helping in the kitchen and singer Gwen Stefani is entertaining after dinner.

During the arrival ceremony, Obama spoke about how Italian Americans have helped shape the United States. He said their experience was often one of arriving with nothing, of overcoming prejudice and discrimination, and relying on faith and the love of family to succeed. He said that experience reveals a "truth we must never forget, and that is America was built by immigrants, America is stronger because of immigrants, America is great because of immigrants."

Associated Press writers Nancy Benac, Darlene Superville and Julie Pace contribute to this report.

States seek to reassure voters, tighten poll security

By ADAM BEAM, Associated Press

Facing unprecedented warnings of a "rigged" election from Donald Trump, state officials around the country are rushing to reassure the public, and some are taking subtle steps to boost security at polling places because of the passions whipped up by the race.

"This election the environment is unlike any before," South Carolina Election Commission spokesman Chris Whitmire said.

Some states are trying to coordinate with local law enforcement to tighten security without making a heavy-handed — and potentially illegal — show of force. And some schools that double as polling places have canceled classes on Election Day for fear of agitated voters and demonstrators in school hallways.

Over the weekend, a firebombing heavily damaged a local Republican Party office in North Carolina. No injuries were reported. And after a bomb threat at the Arizona GOP headquarters on Monday, the state party said it will probably hire security guards.

As Trump's poll numbers have dropped amid accusations from multiple women that he groped them without consent, the Republican nominee has warned that the election is about to be stolen from him on Nov. 8 by backers of Democrat Hillary Clinton.

Trump has called on people to act as "election observers" in certain areas of the country to help prevent fraud — a move that has stirred fears of voter intimidation and confrontations at the polls.

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In North Carolina, state election officials are coordinating with sheriffs to make sure law enforcement agencies know the location of each polling place on Election Day, in case they need to be called.

And in South Carolina, election officials have asked local law enforcement to increase patrols near voting locations while being careful not to oversaturate the area and intimidate voters.

Given the nation's long history of intimidating black voters, especially in the South, local officials must tread carefully in stepping up security. In South Carolina, for example, authorities said that under state law, police are not allowed to enter polling places unless they are summoned by election officials.

"If it is not done correctly, not only can it intimidate voters, it can also be against the law," said Adam Gitlin, counsel for the Brennan Center for Justice's Democracy Program at the New York University School of Law. "Many states have laws that specifically provide that election officials are the ones who are in charge of keeping order."

In Falmouth, Maine, local officials decided to call off classes at public schools that will be used as polling places on Election Day.

"Mr. Trump has a way to get people excited, I would say. It's on both sides. I think everybody has seen it on TV enough to be concerned," Falmouth Police Chief Ed Tolan said. "We don't need those kinds of demonstrations with students on school grounds."

In Washington, city election officials will meet with the federal Homeland Security Department to discuss security at polling places and will take extra measures if necessary, Board of Elections spokeswoman Tamara Robinson said.

Officials in a number of states said they are following standard security procedures for elections and not taking any special precautions beyond that.

"There is a reasonable level of paranoia," said Ken Menzel, general counsel for the Illinois Board of Elections. "But I'm not hearing that the level of paranoia is much different from in previous years."

In metropolitan Atlanta, the Cobb County Sheriff's Office said that the Georgia Constitution requires the county sheriff to provide security at each polling place and that the department does that for every election.

Officials also sought to reassure the public that the election is secure against rigging.

Kentucky Secretary of State Alison Lundergan Grimes, a Democrat, said Trump's comments were "dangerous and divisive." In Tennessee, GOP Secretary of State Tre Hargett said the election will be "fair and honest."

"Anything that causes people to have less confidence to vote, I frown upon. Regardless of what party that comes from," he said.

In heavily Democratic Philadelphia, a city Trump singled out as a place to watch for fraud, elected leaders bristled at such allegations as an attempt to disrupt voting and discourage minorities from going to the polls.

"We will not tolerate any sort of foolishness on Election Day, and it's even insulting to suggest that Philadelphians would," said Democratic City Councilwoman Cindy Bass.

Associated Press writers Patrick Whittle and David Sharp in Portland, Maine; Astrid Galvan in Phoenix; Ben Nuckols in Washington; and Megan Trimble in Philadelphia contributed to this report.

UN announces agreement on 72-hour Yemen cease-fire

By AHMED AL-HAJ, Associated Press

SANAA, Yemen (AP) — The warring parties in Yemen have agreed to a 72-hour cease-fire that will take effect shortly before midnight Wednesday, the U.N. special envoy to Yemen said.

Special Envoy Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed said he hopes the temporary truce can lead to "permanent and lasting end to the conflict."

Ahmed said in a statement late Monday that he received assurances from all parties to the conflict to cease hostilities at 11:59 p.m. local time on Wednesday for an initial period of 72 hours that is subject to renewal.

The warring factions agreed to follow the conditions of a temporary April cease-fire agreement, he said.

The agreement requires them to "to allow free and unhindered access for humanitarian supplies and personnel" to all parts of Yemen, he said.

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry called on Yemen's warring parties to take the necessary measures to implement the cease-fire, "sustain it, and strongly encourage its unconditional renewal."

"We note again that (a) peaceful resolution of this conflict requires compromises and commitments by everyone," Kerry said in a statement. "The United States, alongside the international community, is ready to provide assistance and will continue to work with all parties to conclude a negotiated settlement that will bring a permanent and lasting end to the conflict."

The war in Yemen began in 2014 when Shiite rebels known as Houthis based in the north seized the capital, Sanaa and later swept across much of the poor Arabian Peninsula country with the help of army units loyal to former President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

In March 2015, Saudi Arabia and its Gulf allies launched a campaign of airstrikes against the rebels. The Saudi-led coalition and the United States are backing the internationally recognized government of Yemen's president, Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi, whose loyalists now control most of Yemen's south and are slowly driving out the Houthis and their allies from northern provinces.

More than 4,000 civilians have been killed and 3 million of the country's 26 million people have been driven from their homes by the fighting. Hunger has become widespread in the Arab world's poorest country.

The southern city of Taiz is one of the hardest-hit areas.

Foreign Minister Abdel-Malak al-Mukhlafi demanded late Monday that a months-long siege of the city be lifted as part of the cease-fire agreement and that relief supplies be delivered to its residents without conditions.

"Peace is our permanent choice," he said.

The cease-fire agreement was announced late Monday, a day after Ahmed, the U.N. envoy, met in London with Kerry and British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson.

"This is the time to implement a cease-fire unconditionally and then move to the negotiating table," Kerry said after Sunday's meeting.

\$4 a month? Social Security recipients to get tiny increase

By STEPHEN OHLEMACHER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Millions of Social Security recipients and federal retirees will get a 0.3 percent increase in monthly benefits next year, the fifth year in a row that older Americans will have to settle for historically low raises. The adjustment adds up to a monthly increase of less than \$4 a month for an average recipient.

The cost-of-living adjustment, announced by the government Tuesday, will affect more than 70 million people — about 1 in 5 Americans. For recipients, the average monthly Social Security payment now is \$1,238.

Unfortunately for some seniors, even the small increase will probably be wiped out by an expected increase in Medicare Part B premiums, which are usually deducted from Social Security payments.

By law, rising premiums for most Medicare recipients cannot exceed their Social Security cost-of-living increase. That's known as the "hold harmless" provision. However, new enrollees and high-income retirees are not covered by that provision, so they could face higher Medicare premiums, which will be announced later this year.

There was no Social Security benefit increase this year, and next year's will be small because inflation is low, driven in part by cheaper fuel prices. The low inflation rate should help keep some older folks' bills from rising very rapidly.

Don't tell that to Millicent Graves, a retired veterinary technician, who says Medicare and supplemental insurance premiums eat up nearly a third of her \$929 monthly Social Security payment. The 72-year-old from Williamsburg, Virginia, says her insurance premiums went up by \$46.50 this year, and her cable TV, internet and phone bill went up, too.

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"I just lose and lose and lose and lose," Graves said.

More than 60 million retirees, disabled workers, spouses and children get Social Security benefits. The COLA also affects benefits for about 4 million disabled veterans, 2.5 million federal retirees and their survivors, and more than 8 million people who get Supplemental Security Income, the disability program for the poor. Many people who get SSI also receive Social Security.

Since 2008, the COLA has been above 2 percent only once, in 2011. It's been zero three times.

"This loss of anticipated retirement income compounds every year, causing people to spend through retirement savings far more quickly than planned," said Mary Johnson of the Senior Citizens League. "Over the course of a 25- or 30-year retirement, it reduces anticipated Social Security income by tens of thousands of dollars."

The cost-of-living adjustment is based on a broad measure of prices generated by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. It measures price changes for food, housing, clothing, transportation, energy, medical care, recreation and education.

If prices go up, benefits go up. If prices drop or stay flat, benefits stay the same.

Gasoline prices have fallen by more than 6 percent over the past year, according to the September inflation report, while the cost of medical care has gone up by more than 5 percent.

For seniors who don't drive much, they don't get the full benefit of low gas prices, said Max Gulker, a senior research fellow at the American Institute for Economic Research. Many seniors spend more of their income on health care.

Graves said she appreciates lower gas prices, but the higher medical costs are a problem.

"I just have to rely more each month on cashing in investments," Graves said. "I'm lucky I can do that."

Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton has embraced the idea of expanded benefits for certain low-income retirees. She says the nation would pay for it by raising taxes on "the highest-income Americans."

Breaking with other Republicans, GOP nominee Donald Trump has pledged not to cut benefits. However, he has offered few specifics on how he would address Social Security's long-term financial problems.

Social Security is financed by a 12.4 percent tax on the first \$118,500 of a person's annual wages, with the worker paying half and the employer paying the other half. The amount of wages subject to the payroll tax will go up to \$127,200 next year, the Social Security Administration said.

About 173 million workers will pay Social Security taxes next year — about 12 million of them will face higher taxes because of the higher cap, the agency said.

Associated Press writers Josh Boak and Ricardo Alonzo-Zaldivar contributed to this report.

Follow Stephen Ohlemacher on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/stephenatap>

Online:

Social Security Interactive: <http://hosted.ap.org/interactives/2015/social-security/>

Underwater drone to investigate sonar contacts in MH370 hunt

By KRISTEN GELINEAU, Associated Press

SYDNEY (AP) — A ship involved with the deep-sea sonar search for missing Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 is being fitted with a drone that will examine several sonar contacts of interest on the remote seabed west of Australia, officials said Wednesday.

None of the sonar contacts exhibit the characteristics of a typical aircraft debris field, said the Australian Transport Safety Bureau, which is heading up the hunt for the Boeing 777 in a desolate stretch of the Indian Ocean. But some of the contacts do exhibit man-made properties and therefore must be investigated before they can be eliminated as having come from the plane, the agency said in a statement.

Officials have previously said that more than 20 sonar contacts that crews have picked up in recent months require closer examination by a sonar-equipped underwater drone. They are between 2,700 kilo-

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meters (1,700 miles) and 1,900 kilometers (1,200 miles) from the Australian port of Fremantle where the search ships are based.

Poor weather during the southern hemisphere winter has, until now, prevented the ships from deploying the drone. With the weather improving, the Chinese vessel Dong Hai Jiu 101 is being fitted with a video camera-equipped remotely operated vehicle that will scrutinize the sonar contacts.

Crews have picked up hundreds of sonar contacts of interest throughout the two-year hunt. The contacts are grouped into three classification levels based on their likelihood of being linked to the plane. Contacts dubbed "classification 1" are considered the most likely to have come from the aircraft. None of the recent sonar contacts that the drone will investigate are classification 1. There have only been two contacts that fit into that category thus far; one turned out to be an old shipwreck, and the other was a rock field.

Search crews have so far come up empty in their attempt to find the main underwater wreckage of the plane, which vanished on March 8, 2014, during a flight from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing with 239 people on board. The ships have less than 10,000 square kilometers (3,900 square miles) left to scour of the 120,000-square kilometer (46,000-square mile) search zone.

Officials previously said the search would be finished by December. On Wednesday, the transport bureau said it is now likely to take until January or February to complete, due to the long stretch of poor winter weather that has hampered search efforts.

Malaysia, China and Australia agreed in July that the hunt would be suspended after the crews finish scouring the current search zone, unless credible new evidence emerges that identifies the plane's location.

Asian shares climb as China posts steady growth, oil higher

By ELAINE KURTENBACH, AP Business Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Asian shares rose Wednesday as China reported its economy expanded at a steady 6.7 percent pace in the July-September quarter, better than some forecasters had expected. Sentiment was also lifted by a strong day on Wall Street, fueled by upbeat earnings reports.

KEEPING SCORE: Japan's Nikkei 225 index rose 0.1 percent to 16,987.16 and Australia's S&P ASX/200 added 0.3 percent to 5,429.00. The Kospi in South Korea jumped 0.4 percent to 2,048.45 and Shanghai's Composite index advanced 0.3 percent to 3,092.46. Shares in Southeast Asia were mixed, and Hong Kong's Hang Seng index lost 0.2 percent to 23,339.67.

CHINA STEADY: The 6.7 percent annual pace of growth was supported by strong consumer spending that helped offset weakness in trade. That was in line with the two previous quarters and better than some forecasters expected. "We won't get the full breakdown until tomorrow but we suspect that the key driver was stronger growth in real estate services, on the back of buoyant property sales. Financial sector growth is also likely to have recovered as last year's equity bubble dropped out of the base for comparison," Julian Evans-Pritchard of Capital Economics said in a commentary.

WALL STREET GAINS: Surprisingly strong earnings from Netflix, UnitedHealth Group and other companies put investors in a buying mood Tuesday, driving U.S. stocks solidly higher. Health care stocks led the gainers. Materials, utilities, energy and a broad swath of other companies also posted gains. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 0.4 percent, to 18,161.94, while the Standard & Poor's 500 index climbed 0.6 percent to 2,139.60. The Nasdaq composite index surged 0.8 percent to 5,243.84.

ANALYST VIEWPOINT: "U.S. markets have provided Asia with a healthy platform from which to progress," Chris Weston of IG said in a report. "We've also seen a slew of earnings reports (including Goldman Sachs) and once again whether one is looking at the underlying earnings or the sales lines, companies are beating the analysts' estimates."

OIL: U.S. benchmark crude oil gained 44 cents to \$50.73 a barrel after a report of a drawdown in inventories. It rose 35 cents to \$50.29 a barrel in New York. Brent crude, the international standard, was up 42 cents at \$52.10 a barrel in London.

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Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Wednesday, Oct. 19, the 293rd day of 2016. There are 73 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 19, 1216, John, King of England, died, more than a year after affixing his royal seal to Magna Carta ("The Great Charter").

On this date:

In 1765, the Stamp Act Congress, meeting in New York, adopted a declaration of rights and liberties which the British Parliament ignored.

In 1781, British troops under Gen. Lord Cornwallis surrendered at Yorktown, Virginia, as the American Revolution neared its end.

In 1789, John Jay was sworn in as the first Chief Justice of the United States.

In 1864, Confederate Lt. Gen. Jubal A. Early's soldiers attacked Union forces at Cedar Creek, Virginia; the Union troops were able to rally and defeat the Confederates.

In 1914, the U.S. Post Office began delivering mail with government-owned cars, as opposed to using contracted vehicles. The First Battle of Ypres (EE'-pruh) began during World War I.

In 1936, H.R. Ekins of the New York World-Telegram beat out Dorothy Kilgallen of the New York Journal and Leo Kieran of The New York Times in a round-the-world race on commercial flights that lasted 18 1/2 days.

In 1944, the U.S. Navy began accepting black women into WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service). The play "I Remember Mama" by John Van Druten opened at the Music Box Theater on Broadway.

In 1951, President Harry S. Truman signed an act formally ending the state of war with Germany.

In 1960, the United States began a limited embargo against Cuba covering all commodities except medical supplies and certain food products.

In 1977, the supersonic Concorde made its first landing in New York City.

In 1987, the stock market crashed as the Dow Jones Industrial Average plunged 508 points, or 22.6 percent in value, to close at 1,738.74.

In 1994, 22 people were killed as a terrorist bomb shattered a bus in the heart of Tel Aviv's shopping district. Entertainer Martha Raye died in Los Angeles at age 78.

Ten years ago: Gunmen ambushed a car carrying Afghan civilians working for a U.S. military base in Afghanistan, killing eight of them execution-style. The Dow Jones industrial average closed above 12,000 for the first time, ending at 12,011.73. The St. Louis Cardinals won the NL pennant, beating the New York Mets 3-1 in Game 7 of their championship series. Actress Phyllis Kirk died in Los Angeles at age 79.

Five years ago: Authorities in the Zanesville, Ohio, area started wrapping up their hunt for wild animals unleashed by a private farm owner who'd taken his own life; sheriff's deputies shot and killed a total of 48 animals. In Greece, hundreds of youths smashed and looted stores in central Athens and clashed with riot police during a massive anti-government rally against painful new austerity measures. The St. Louis Cardinals won Game 1 of the World Series, defeating the Texas Rangers 3-2.

One year ago: Canadians voted for a sharp change in their government as the Liberals led by Justin Trudeau, the son of a former prime minister, won a landslide victory to end Conservative Stephen Harper's near decade in office. Ahmed Mohamed, the Texas teenager arrested after a homemade clock he'd brought to school was mistaken for a bomb, capped a whirlwind month with a visit to the White House, where he met with President Barack Obama for "Astronomy Night." The Toronto Blue Jays roughed up Johnny Cueto for an 11-8 victory over the Royals that cut Kansas City's AL Championship series lead to 2-1.

Today's Birthdays: Author John le Carre (luh kah-RAI') is 85. Artist Peter Max is 79. Author and critic Renata Adler is 79. Actor Michael Gambon is 76. Actor John Lithgow (LIHTH'-goh) is 71. Feminist activist Patricia Ireland is 71. Singer Jeannie C. Riley is 71. Rock singer-musician Patrick Simmons (The Doobie

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Brothers) is 68. Talk show host Charlie Chase is 64. Rock singer-musician Karl Wallinger (World Party) is 59. Former Republican National Committee Chairman Michael Steele is 58. Singer Jennifer Holliday is 56. Boxer Evander Holyfield is 54. Host Ty Pennington (TV: "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition") is 52. Rock singer-musician Todd Park Mohr (Big Head Todd and the Monsters) is 51. Actor Jon Favreau is 50. Amy Carter is 49. "South Park" co-creator Trey Parker is 47. Comedian Chris Kattan is 46. Rock singer Pras Michel (The Fugees) is 44. Actor Omar Gooding is 40. Country singer Cyndi Thomson is 40. Writer-director Jason Reitman is 39. Actor Benjamin Salisbury is 36. Actress Gillian Jacobs is 34. Rock singer Zac Barnett (American Authors) is 30. Singer/actress Ciara Renee (TV: "Legends of Tomorrow") is 26. Actress Hunter King is 23.

Thought for Today: "To become aware of the possibility of the search is to be onto something." — Walker Percy, American author (1916-1990).