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Thursday, Oct. 27

School Breakfast: Cinnamon roll, yogurt, fruit, juice, milk.

School Lunch: Hot dog, baked beans, fruit, romaine salad

Senior Menu: Roast beef, mashed potatoes and gravy, carrots, peaches, dinner roll.

1:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.: Parent-Teacher Conferences

6:45 p.m.: Parent Scholarship Presentation

ASVAB Test

Friday, Oct. 28

Faculty In-service - NO SCHOOL

All State Chorus and Orchestra in Sioux Falls

Saturday, Oct. 29

Oral Interp at Watertown

7 pm: All State Chorus and Orchestra in Sioux Falls

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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Groton Chiropractic Clinic

Carol McFarland-Kutter, D.C.
1205 N 1st St., Groton 397-8204

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The Many Nicknames of South Dakota



The Mount Rushmore State.

The Sunshine State.

The Swinged Cat State.

Of all the nicknames for South Dakota, perhaps none is more unusual than "The Swinged Cat State."

This nickname originated from remarks made by South Dakota's first governor, Arthur C. Mellette, according to an article from the South Dakota State Historical Society – State Archives.

In 1890, South Dakota was in the midst of a drought. Mellette was doing everything in his power to help settlers and keep them from leaving the state. On a trip to Chicago for aid, Mellette was met by Moses P. Handy, a friend and newspaper-

man. Handy asked Mellette, "Well, governor, how is South Dakota?"

Mellette replied, "Oh, South Dakota is a swung cat, better than she looks."

By swung, Mellette meant "burnt" or "singed," according to the article.

The next day, the Chicago Inter Ocean newspaper had a story about Mellette, governor of the "swinged cat State."

"Coyote State" might have been its first nickname, and while most people probably assume the nickname was inspired by the state animal, it may actually have been inspired by a horse.

According to Volume IX of South Dakota Historical Collections Compiled by the State Department of History, a race took place in October 1863 at Fort Randall between horses owned by two soldiers from Company A Dakota Cavalry and a major from the 6th Iowa Cavalry.

The major's horse was badly beaten.

A soldier from the Iowa infantry remarked "that the Dakota horse ran like a coyote." The owners immediately gave their horse that name, which became applied to the entire Dakota Company and to all residents of the state.

With a nod to the number of artesian wells in the state, another South Dakota nickname is "The Artesian State."

With plains, hills, mountains, cities, towns, farmland, pasture, lakes, rivers, hot weather and freezing cold, South Dakota has also been called "The Land of Infinite Variety" and "The Land of Plenty."

Weather is a factor in two of South Dakota's nicknames. As "The Blizzard State," it shares a nickname with Texas because of both states being subject to frequent storms.

And while "The Sunshine State" is Florida's official nickname, it was also South Dakota's slogan for decades.

In 1992, the sun set on "The Sunshine State" as South Dakota's official nickname. State Rep. Chuck Mateer, a Republican from Belle Fourche, introduced legislation that year to change the state's nickname from "The Sunshine State" to "The Mount Rushmore State."

"Everybody's got a lot of sunshine, but we're the only ones who've got Mount Rushmore," he was quoted as saying in an article in the Jan. 26, 1992, Sioux Falls Argus Leader.

Getting the bill passed wasn't all sunshine for supporters. Opponents argued that dropping the nickname "The Sunshine State" would cause people to think the state was in a "frozen tundra," according to Republican Rep. Mary Edelen of Vermillion in the Feb. 1, 1992, Argus Leader. Others in favor of keeping the sun shining on South Dakota said that the state's American Indian population did not want South Dakota to be known as "The Mount Rushmore State."

The legislation did pass and was signed into law by Gov. George S. Mickelson, who favored the new nickname.

Who knows what the future will hold for South Dakota's nicknames? While "The Mount Rushmore State" might seem set in stone, clearly nicknames come and go.

This moment in South Dakota history is provided by the South Dakota Historical Society Foundation, the nonprofit fundraising partner of the South Dakota State Historical Society at the Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre. Find us on the web at www.sdhsf.org. Contact us at info@sdhsf.org to submit a story idea.

Federal funding released to help families in South Dakota with heating and cooling costs

The Administration for Children and Families has released \$18,532,348 to help low-income families in South Dakota stay warm during winter months, cool during summer months and make cost-effective home energy repairs.

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), which is run by the Office of Community Services at HHS' Administration for Children and Families, provides funding to states, the District of Columbia, territories and tribes to assist households with paying energy bills and weatherize homes for energy improvements.

"Unsafe indoor temperatures are unacceptable conditions for anyone to live in, especially for seniors and families with young children," said Jeannie Chaffin, director of the Office of Community Services at HHS' Administration for Children and Families. "With these LIHEAP funds helping households in South Dakota with limited incomes pay their home heating and cooling bills, these families and individuals can use their income to pay for other critical necessities such as food and medicine."

LIHEAP funding assists households with meeting home energy needs, including vulnerable households with very young children, individuals with disabilities and older individuals. Individuals interested in applying for energy assistance should contact their local, state, territory or tribal LIHEAP agency or call 866-674-6327.

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.

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Habitat Pays: Knowing Your Options

Joint Column By:

**Secretary of Agriculture Mike Jaspers and
Secretary of Game, Fish and Parks Kelly Hepler**

Our natural resources, the soil we grow our food in, the water we drink and the air we breathe are some of our most valuable resources. As South Dakota's producers finish harvest and begin planning for next year, we encourage producers to consider the many conservation programs available to them that can increase soil health, protect water quality and provide habitat for wildlife, all while helping to improve their financial bottom line.

Over the past few years, there's been a steady decrease in the prices producers receive for the products they grow and raise. At the same time, there has been little to no decrease in the cost of production. To maintain a positive bottom line, it is important that South Dakota's farmers and ranchers use every tool available to get the most value from their operations.

In some cases, where landowners are spending more to farm certain acres than what they can earn from the crop, looking at alternative uses for those acres may be the next step. Turning land into habitat can improve soil health and increase land values. Plus, a wide variety of financial incentives are available to landowners.

The landscape across the state is as diverse as South Dakota's farms and ranches. No one approach or program will fit every operation nor will it achieve all of an individual producer's goals. Just like the landscape, diverse programs are available to producers from state and federal governments and private entities that can provide financial resources and technical assistance to implement conservation practices. Additionally, there are advisors across the state who work one-on-one with producers to connect them with programs that fit their operational goals.

To make it easier to learn about which programs would work best for an operation, the South Dakota departments of Agriculture and Game, Fish and Parks have partnered over the past year to develop and maintain the Habitat Pays website at habitat.sd.gov. This website serves as a one-stop-shop for finding state, federal and non-governmental programs that provide cost-share or technical assistance to producers. The website includes contact information for a variety of habitat advisors who meet with landowners, learn the goals they have for their operation and advise them about options available to meet those goals. It also features landowner video testimonials of how they are working in concert with their local advisor to enhance habitat on their property. We are proud to showcase a handful of these producers and the work they are doing. These farm and ranch families share their stories and offer insight into how these programs and advisors have been beneficial for their operations.

We know that the new year is an important time for producers to make decisions about what their operation will look like for the next year. As you look ahead to 2017, we encourage you to utilize habitat.sd.gov and consider how the available programs may fit into your plan.

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Today in Weather History

October 27, 1991: The first winter storm of the season moved across western and northern South Dakota. The storm produced widespread snow and freezing rain. Strong winds also produced blowing snow which caused blizzard conditions. Snow amounts ranged from 3 to 11 inches. Many schools and businesses in western South Dakota were closed. Snow drifts, as high as 6 feet, made many roads impassable. Travel across western South Dakota was extremely difficult, if not impossible. Forty traffic accidents occurred in the Black Hills while five accidents were reported in Pierre. Many major roads were closed due to the snow and visibility. Rapid City airport was closed. Freezing rain downed power and telephone lines in Mobridge, Gettysburg, Belvidere, Midland, and Mission. Ice also broke six power poles in Walworth County. Some rural areas were without electricity for 30 hours.

1764 - A "very remarkable storm of snow with high winds" produced 22 inches at Rutland in central Massachusetts. (David Ludlum)

1913: At least three people died, and more than a hundred people were injured when the Abercynon Tornado struck an area from Edwardsville to Cilfynydd in South Wales. Click [HERE](#) for more information from BBC.

1929 - A snowstorm dumped 27 inches upon Ishpeming, MI, in 24 hours to establish a state record. (David Ludlum)

1962 - An early season winter storm over New England blanketed northern Maine with 7 to 16 inches of snow, and southeastern New England with up to 3 inches of snow. Worcester MA received a record 4.7 inches of snow. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Showers and thunderstorms produced locally heavy rain from Virginia to New York State. Fallen leaves made roads and sidewalks slick, and also clogged sewers. Rainfall totals of 1.55 inches at Newark NJ, 1.54 inches at Harrisburg PA, 1.27 inches at Scranton PA, and 1.22 inches at Atlantic City NJ, were records for the date. (The National Weather Summary)








1988 - Low pressure brought snow and gale force winds to the Great Lakes Region, and snow and high winds to the north central U.S. Winds gusted to 47 mph at Lansing MI, and reached 55 mph at Pierre SD. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Wintry weather invaded the northwestern U.S. A storm crossing the Central Rockies produced up to 23 inches of snow in the mountains east of Salt Lake City UT. "Indian Summer" continued in the Lower Ohio Valley and the Upper Great Lakes Region. Afternoon highs of 71 degrees at Marquette MI and 72 degrees at Sault Ste Marie MI were records for the date. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

2006: An F1 tornado (waterspout) came ashore and caused significant damage on the west side of Apalachicola Florida.

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Today	Tonight	Friday	Friday Night	Saturday	Saturday Night	Sunday
						
Areas Fog then Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny	Mostly Cloudy	Chance Rain	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny
High: 64 °F	Low: 49 °F	High: 71 °F	Low: 42 °F	High: 49 °F	Low: 33 °F	High: 55 °F

Expect Mild Temperatures Today and Friday

Today:
Highs in the lower 60s in Northeast South Dakota to near 80 South Central

Friday:
Highs in the lower 70s to the mid 80s

National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD



weather.gov/Aberdeen



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen | Updated: 10/27/2016 5:36 AM Central

Published on: 10/27/2016 at 5:40AM

Dry and mild conditions are expected across the area today through Friday. Southerly winds today will shift to the northwest on Friday.

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 52.6 F at 5:14 PM
Low Outside Temp: 43.2 F at 10:16 PM
High Gust: 19.0 Mph at 12:03 AM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 83° in 1983
Record Low: 10° in 1919
Average High: 52°F
Average Low: 28°F
Average Precip in Oct.: 1.81
Precip to date in Oct.: 1.80
Average Precip to date: 20.29
Precip Year to Date: 15.00
Sunset Tonight: 6:27 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:08 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Thu, Oct 27, 2016, issued 4:49 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McReynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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WHERE'S THE HAPPINESS?

An unhappy skeptic said to Benjamin Franklin, "The Constitution is a mockery! Where's the happiness that it guarantees?"

"My friend," said Franklin, "it only guarantees the pursuit of happiness."

Our word for happiness can be misleading. The "root" hap means chance. Human happiness is something that is dependent on the chances and the changes of life, the daily "things" – events or circumstances – that may or may not give us "happiness."

Consider the beatitudes. They are not about some hope for a future, blissful state in heaven. They are for the now which belongs to the Christian in this present life. The way the beatitudes are written assures the Christian of the presence of God, the joyous thrill of His presence and the hope of the Christian life.

The word blessed that is used in each of the beatitudes is a very special word. It describes a joy that has its secret within ourselves - a joy that is peaceful and untouchable and self-contained. It is a joy that is above and beyond and independent of all the circumstances of life. It is a joy that comes from God Himself. "No one," said Jesus, "will take your joy from you!" Walking daily with Him assures us of a joy no one or nothing can disturb.

Prayer: Give us, our Heavenly Father, a peace that passes this world's understanding, a joy that comes from Your presence and a hope that assures us of our home with You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Matthew 5:1-12 ...Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

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

We now accept

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

for out patient therapy.

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

News from the Associated Press

Oil pipeline protesters brace for confrontation with police

By JAMES MacPHERSON and BLAKE NICHOLSON, Associated Press

CANNON BALL, N.D. (AP) — Protesters trying to stop construction of the Dakota Access oil pipeline are bracing for a confrontation with police Thursday after the demonstrators refused to leave private land in the pipeline's path.

A months-long dispute over the four-state, \$3.8 billion pipeline reached a crisis point when some 200 protesters set up camp on land owned by pipeline developer Energy Transfer Partners. The disputed area is just to the north of a more permanent and larger encampment on federally owned land where hundreds of protesters have camped for months.

Law enforcement officials demanded that the protesters leave the private land on Wednesday, but the protesters refused. It appeared only thick fog and cloudy skies kept a large contingent of law enforcement officers from moving in. Officials have frequently monitored protesters by air.

"At some point the rule of law has to be enforced," Cass County Sheriff Paul Laney said Wednesday. "We could go down there at any time. We're trying not to."

Some protesters were resigned to a confrontation. On Wednesday, law enforcement included sheriff's deputies from several counties, the Highway Patrol and the National Guard, and several buses and Humvees stood at the ready.

"I don't have a crystal ball to know when it will happen, but we know it will happen," said Mekasi Camp Horinek, a member of the Ponca tribe in Oklahoma. "We're going to hold this ground."

Protesters vowed to stay put, at one point chanting "Stand in peace against the beast."

"I'm here to die if I have to. I don't want to die but I will," said Didi Banerji, who lives in Toronto but is originally from the Spirit Lake Sioux reservation in North Dakota.

About 200 activists moved onto the site last weekend to fight the nearly 1,200-mile pipeline, which they fear could harm cultural sites and drinking water for the Standing Rock Sioux tribe.

Protests supporting the Standing Rock Sioux have been ongoing for months, with more than 260 people arrested so far in North Dakota.

The pipeline is to carry oil from western North Dakota through South Dakota and Iowa to an existing pipeline in Patoka, Illinois, where shippers can send it on to Midwest and Gulf Coast markets. Energy Transfer Partners has said the pipeline is nearly complete other than the work in south central North Dakota.

Local sheriff's officials had said earlier they didn't have the resources to immediately remove activists from the private land, which is just north of the main protest camp on federal land near Cannon Ball, a town about 50 miles south of Bismarck. But officers called for reinforcements, and those were arriving from other states.

North Dakota's Emergency Commission approved \$6 million in emergency funding for law enforcement costs related to the protest — but as of Wednesday, nearly all of that had been used up. The Department of Emergency Services plans to ask for more, spokeswoman Cecily Fong said.

The protest has drawn the attention of activists and celebrities, including actress-activist Shailene Woodley and Green Party presidential candidate Jill Stein. Civil rights activist Jesse Jackson and actor Mark Ruffalo were at the protest camp Wednesday. Jackson said he was there "to pray together, protest together and if necessary go to jail together."

Nicholson reported from Bismarck, North Dakota.

Wednesday's Scores By The Associated Press

PREP FOOTBALL
Class 9B
First Round
Langford 51, Leola/Frederick 0

South Dakota chef revitalizing Native American cuisine

By REGINA GARCIA CANO, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Sean Sherman is working to help Native Americans reclaim their identity one meal at a time.

The chef, an Oglala Lakota born on South Dakota's Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, embarked on a journey almost a decade ago to revitalize the gastronomy of his culture to bring Native American cuisine to more tables. Now, with a big boost from online fundraising, Sherman is preparing to open a Minneapolis-area restaurant.

"Our foods are our cultural identifier; it's who we are," Sherman said. "We think about the food of our grandparents and our great-grandparents, and those foods are special to us. But for a lot of Native American people, there's been so much death and trauma and oppression that the food systems have taken such a gigantic hit."

The kitchen at a learning center in a Native American neighborhood in Minneapolis bustled Monday as Sherman and his team prepared rabbit, trout and other regional food for donors. He supervised as one chef plated a dish, experimenting with the presentation, while another made cookies. Another chef placed bright orange squash, corn and other vegetables on skewers, as the fragrant smell of toasted amaranth, an ancient grain, wafted through the air.

Sherman, 42, began working in restaurants when he was 13 in the Black Hills of South Dakota. After moving to Minneapolis, he worked his way up to a chef position, cooking Spanish, French, Japanese and other styles for years. But it was during a stay in a town in Mexico's Pacific coast state of Nayarit in 2007 that he interacted with Huichol Indians and had what he describes as an epiphany.

"I realized I should be focused on foods of my own cultural heritage," Sherman said. "That's what started it, realizing the status of where Native American food was back then and what the future could look like."

He read anthropology, ethnobotanical, history and other books. He talked with elders. He spent time outdoors identifying plants.

"There was no 'Joy of Native American Cooking' cookbook," he joked.

After years of working to identify Lakota flavor, he started a catering business in the Twin Cities in 2014.

Nathan Ratner got to know Sherman that summer while looking for a chef to launch a food truck in Minneapolis. Ratner, then working in economic development for a public housing complex occupied primarily by American Indians, had secured grant money and saw the truck as a way to get job training for residents.

"I interviewed him, asked him to put together a tasting menu. It quickly became clear that he was the choice," Ratner said. Sherman and his team developed the concept and menu for what became the Tatanka Truck — "tatanka" is Lakota for buffalo.

"The word I would use to describe Sean's food is pride," Ratner said. "He takes such pride in his food."

Sherman wound up purchasing the food truck business and has a cookbook due out next fall. But his most ambitious project yet is the restaurant he is working to open in 2017.

He raised nearly \$150,000 in a crowdfunding campaign to go toward buying a building for the restaurant that will feature sustainable, organic foods from the region that Native Americans hunted and gathered before processed foods were introduced to their diet. That means no dairy, no flour and no sugar. For protein, he uses venison, bison, and wild birds, and avoids beef, chicken and pork.

Sherman's menus have featured such dishes as maple- and cedar-stewed bison with Native corn and hominy; seared smoked walleye with black bean paste, fried sunchoke crisps and a syrup produced from

sumac shrub and rosehip, the fruit of the rose plant; and wild greens with sumac-stewed and sun-dried rabbit.

The restaurant's menu hasn't been determined, but one thing is certain, it won't include fry bread, the high-calorie food associated with Native Americans that many love. The doughy treat was born out of necessity in the 1800s, when the government moved American Indians off their land and gave them rations of flour, salt and lard.

Sherman hopes the restaurant will be a model that could be replicated on a smaller scale or adapted as a deli or grill counter on tribal communities, many of which are in what constitute food deserts or rely on gas stations for food. He also hopes to see indigenous restaurants throughout North America.

"Canada shouldn't be identified by poutine. America shouldn't be identified by Coca-Cola and hamburgers; it should be identified by all of this awesome food and flavor. People need to appreciate the region they're in and the culture that's behind it," Sherman said.

Follow Regina Garcia Cano on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/reginagarciaKNO>

Tense standoff at Dakota Access protest encampment

By JAMES MacPHERSON and BLAKE NICHOLSON, Associated Press

CANNON BALL, N.D. (AP) — The prospect of a police raid on an encampment protesting the Dakota Access pipeline faded as night fell Wednesday, with law enforcement making no immediate move after protesters rejected their request to withdraw from private land.

Unmarked aircraft that had been monitoring protesters were withdrawn late in the day, and some activists who had been on hand for a possible confrontation headed back to a larger protest camp on federal land.

Law enforcement officials said they were ready to remove about 200 protesters who this weekend set up teepees and tents on land owned by the pipeline company.

Cass County Sheriff Paul Laney told reporters that authorities don't want a confrontation but that the protesters "are not willing to bend."

"We have the resources. We could go down there at any time," he said. "We're trying not to."

Morton County Sheriff Kyle Kirchmeier said authorities would continue to try for a peaceful resolution but that "we are here to enforce the law as needed."

Protesters vowed to stay put, at one point chanting "Stand in peace against the beast."

"We're going to hold this ground," said protester Mekasi Camp Horinek.

"I'm here to die if I have to. I don't want to die but I will," said Didi Banerji, who lives in Toronto but is originally from the Spirit Lake Sioux reservation in North Dakota.

Activists fear the nearly 1,200-mile pipeline could harm cultural sites and drinking water for the Standing Rock Sioux tribe.

Energy Transfer Partners, which is building the \$3.8 billion pipeline, said Tuesday that the protesters were trespassing and that "lawless behavior will not be tolerated."

Protests supporting the Standing Rock Sioux tribe's opposition to the pipeline have been ongoing for months, with more than 260 people arrested so far in North Dakota. The pipeline is to carry oil from western North Dakota through South Dakota and Iowa to an existing pipeline in Patoka, Illinois, where shippers can send it on to Midwest and Gulf Coast markets. Energy Transfer Partners has said the pipeline is nearly complete other than the work in south central North Dakota.

Local sheriff's officials had said earlier they didn't have the resources to immediately remove activists from the private land, which is just north of the main protest camp on federal land near Cannon Ball, a town about 50 miles south of Bismarck. But officers called for reinforcements, and those were arriving from other states.

One notable clash came on Sept. 3, after construction crews removed topsoil from private land that protesters believe contained Native American burial and cultural sites. Authorities said four security guards and two guard dogs were injured. The tribe said protesters reported that six people were bitten by security

dogs and at least 30 people were pepper-sprayed.

The state and pipeline company dispute that any sacred grounds have been disturbed during the construction.

North Dakota's Emergency Commission approved \$6 million in emergency funding for law enforcement costs related to the protest — but as of Wednesday, nearly all of that had been used up. The Department of Emergency Services plans to ask for more, Fong said.

The protest has drawn the attention of activists and celebrities, including actress-activist Shailene Woodley and Green Party presidential candidate Jill Stein. Civil rights activist Jesse Jackson and actor Mark Ruffalo were at the protest camp Wednesday. Jackson said he was there "to pray together, protest together and if necessary go to jail together."

This version of the story corrects the end point of the pipeline to Patoka, Illinois rather than refineries in Illinois.

Nicholson reported from Bismarck, North Dakota.

AP News Guide: New phase for Dakota Access Pipeline protests

By JAMES MacPHERSON, Associated Press

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — Police and activists protesting the Dakota Access oil pipeline are in a tense standoff over the activists' occupation of private land owned by the pipeline developer. Here's a guide to the latest developments and key background about the protest:

THE ORIGINS

Dallas-based Energy Transfer Partners got federal permits for the \$3.8 billion pipeline in July, about two years after it was announced. The project is projected to move a half-million barrels of crude oil daily from western North Dakota through South Dakota and Iowa to an existing pipeline in Patoka, Illinois, where shippers can access Midwest and Gulf Coast markets.

Supporters say the pipeline will have safeguards against leaks, and is a safer way to move oil than truck and trains, especially after a handful of fiery — and sometimes deadly — derailments of trains carrying North Dakota crude.

But the Standing Rock Sioux, other tribes and environmental groups say that the pipeline could threaten water supplies for millions, since it will cross the Missouri River, as well as harm sacred sites and artifacts. Protesters, sometimes numbering in the thousands, have gathered since April at the confluence of the Cannonball and Missouri rivers in southern North Dakota.

IN THE COURTROOM

The Standing Rock Sioux, whose reservation straddles the North Dakota-South Dakota border, are suing federal regulators for approving the oil pipeline. They have challenged the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' decision to grant permits at more than 200 water crossings and argue that the pipeline would be placed less than a mile upstream of the reservation, potentially affecting drinking water for more than 8,000 tribal members and millions downstream.

The tribe hasn't fared well in court so far. A federal judge in September denied their request to block construction of the entire pipeline. Three federal agencies stepped in and ordered a temporary halt to construction on corps land around and underneath Lake Oahe — one of six reservoirs on the Missouri River.

The corps is reviewing its permitting of the project and has given no timetable for a decision. Meanwhile, the tribe's appeal is still pending in federal court.

Energy Transfer Partners has said construction is nearly complete elsewhere.

THE PROTESTS

The tribe's fight grew into an international cause in recent months for many Native Americans and indig-

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enous people from around the world, with some traveling thousands of miles to join the protest.

"Divergent" actress Shailene Woodley also protested and was arrested, while "Democracy Now!" host Amy Goodman had charges of rioting and trespassing charges dropped stemming from her coverage of a protest.

More than 260 people have been arrested since the larger demonstrations began in August.

As of Wednesday, nearly all of the \$6 million in emergency funding earmarked for law enforcement costs related to the protest had been used up. The state's Emergency Commission approved the money in late September, and the Department of Emergency Services plans to ask for more.

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

Nearly half of those arrests came over the weekend, when protesters twice blocked a state highway and law enforcement said that a drone was flown dangerously close to a police helicopter.

On Sunday, a group of protesters moved onto a private property that had recently been acquired by Energy Transfer Partners, putting them squarely in the pipeline's path for the first time.

Morton County sheriff's officials called it trespassing. They said they didn't have the resources to immediately remove the demonstrators. Six states have answered the department's call for reinforcements, and Energy Transfer Partners called on the protesters to leave. On Wednesday, officers of three law enforcement agencies formally asked the protesters to go, but they said no. Police said they don't want to forcibly remove the demonstrators but will do so if necessary.

Actor Mark Ruffalo was delivering a pair of Navajo-made solar trailers Wednesday to help power the encampments established to protest the pipeline. The Rev. Jesse Jackson also visited the protests on Wednesday.

2 young brothers die, man injured in Aberdeen area home fire

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — Two young brothers are dead after a mobile home fire on the outskirts of Aberdeen.

The blaze occurred about 5 a.m. Tuesday. Brown County Coroner Mike Carlsen identifies the victims as 5-year-old Chesney Hoffman and his 4-year-old brother, Brendan Hoffman.

Carlsen says the two boys lived at the mobile home. The preliminary cause of death for both brothers is smoke and soot inhalation, and both bodies had significant burns.

A man in the home was taken to a hospital with unknown injuries.

The cause of the fire was not immediately determined. Local and state officials including the South Dakota State Fire Marshal's office are investigating.

Trump holds stock in Dakota Access pipeline

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — Financial disclosures show GOP presidential candidate Donald Trump holds stock in the company building the Dakota Access oil pipeline across the Midwest.

Trump's 2016 federal disclosure forms, filed in May, show he owned between \$15,000 and \$50,000 in stock in Texas-based Energy Transfer Partners.

That's down from between \$500,000 and \$1 million a year earlier.

Trump's form also shows he holds between \$100,000 and \$250,000 in Phillips 66 stock, which has a one-quarter share of Dakota Access.

Campaign contribution disclosures show that Energy Transfer Partners CEO Kelcy Warren donated \$3,000 to Trump's campaign, plus \$100,000 to a committee supporting Trump's candidacy, as well as \$66,800 to the Republican National Committee.

Trump's stake and the donations were first reported Wednesday by The Guardian.

Lincoln County planners set wind development restrictions

CANTON, S.D. (AP) — Lincoln County planners have voted to effectively ban wind farm development by requiring that turbines be at least a mile away from homes and setting noise rules that project supporters call unattainable.

The zoning recommendations approved this week marked a major victory for opponents of Dakota Power Community Wind's effort to create the largest industrial wind project in South Dakota, the Argus Leader (<http://argusne.ws/2eQJI8r>) reported.

Cindy Thomas, a retired nurse and member of We-Care SD, a group that has organized against the wind project since early 2015, said the planning commission made the right decisions on sound restrictions and distance from homes.

"Both of those things are very important for health," Thomas said. "I'm just ecstatic they have erred on the side of caution."

Wind development investors urged commissioners to rely on research that cites no negative impact on property values or health.

"At a mile, you won't have any wind farms in Lincoln County," said Brian Minish, a Lincoln County resident and backer of the wind farm project.

Rob Johnson of Dakota Power Community Wind said the vote was a rejection of sound science in favor of a vocal opposition. If local officials let the vote stand, it also could harm the tax base, he said.

"They won, and the taxpayers in Lincoln County will be the ones who suffer," Johnson said.

The full County Commission must still weigh in next month.

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

2 people killed in 2-pickup crash north of Sturgis

STURGIS, S.D. (AP) — Two people are dead after a crash in western South Dakota's Meade County.

The Highway Patrol says two pickup trucks crashed at the intersection of two rural roads north of Sturgis shortly after 9 a.m. Tuesday.

The 67-year-old man driving one of the pickups and a 32-year-old female passenger in the other vehicle were killed. They weren't immediately identified.

South Dakota woman accused of beating daughter to death

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Authorities say a South Dakota woman could face life in prison for allegedly beating her five-year-old daughter to death.

Officials say 25-year-old Desarae Makes Him First has pleaded not guilty to federal charges of first-degree murder, second-degree murder, assault resulting in serious bodily injury to a child and child abuse.

Authorities allege that in October on the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation, Makes Him First repeatedly hit her child, causing injuries that led to her death. Court records say Makes Him First initially blamed the injuries on a fall down the stairs.

But Makes Him First allegedly later told authorities that in one instance she punched the girl repeatedly because she was angry the child had spilled milk.

Makes Him First's attorney didn't immediately return a telephone message requesting comment.

Authorities ID 16-year-old Faulkton boy killed in crash

BOWDLE, S.D. (AP) — Authorities have identified a Faulkton teenager who was killed in a crash in Edmunds County.

The Highway Patrol says 16-year-old Christopher Cassens was driving a car that collided with a semitrailer pulling an empty cattle trailer Monday night at a state Highway 47 intersection on the east side of Bowdle.

Cassens was killed and 16-year-old passenger Nicholas Wittmeier suffered what authorities say are life-

threatening injuries. He also is from Faulkton.

The semi driver wasn't hurt.

Foster mother pleads guilty to reduced charge in boy's death

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A Sioux Falls woman accused of killing her 2-year-old foster son has pleaded guilty to a reduced charge.

Thirty-two-year-old Mary Beth Jennewein was charged with second-degree murder for the death of Miles Stead, who was taken off life support on Jan. 6 after suffering a traumatic brain injury.

Jennewein on Tuesday pleaded guilty to aggravated battery of an infant, and prosecutors dropped the murder charge and alternate counts of manslaughter.

Jennewein still could face up to 25 years in prison. A sentencing date was not immediately set.

Arrieta deals, Cubs awaken, top Indians to even Series at 1

By TOM WITHERS, AP Sports Writer

CLEVELAND (AP) — Jake Arrieta made a brief run at a no-hitter and ended another 71-year pause between celebrations for the Chicago Cubs and their faithful fans.

Not only are they back in the World Series, they've won there again.

One more drought quenched, one more to go.

Arrieta carried a no-hit bid into the sixth inning, Kyle Schwarber drove in two runs and the Cubs brushed off a shutout to even the Series with their first Fall Classic win in more than seven decades, 5-1 over the Cleveland Indians in Game 2 on Wednesday night.

Arrieta, who pitched a no-hitter earlier this season, briefly invoked Don Larsen's name by flirting with one deep in October before the Indians touched him for two hits and a run. However, the right-hander helped give Chicago just what it needed — a split at Progressive Field — before the Cubbies return to their Wrigley Field den for the next three games starting Friday night.

"It's always crazy good," Cubs manager Joe Maddon said when asked how he expected things to be on the corner of Clark and Addison for Game 3. "But I'd have to imagine a little bit more than that, especially coming back at 1-1. I think the folks will be jacked up about the win tonight.

"It's the finest venue there is in professional sports and maybe in all of sports."

The Cubs hadn't won in the Series since beating Detroit 8-7 in 1945 to force a decisive Game 7, and after their latest win, hundreds of Chicago fans gathered in the pouring rain in the rows behind their first-base dugout, where they danced and sang. A few waved the familiar white and blue "W" flags.

They hope to do it three more times.

The big-swinging Schwarber, who made it back for Chicago's long-awaited Series return after missing six months with an injured left knee, hit an RBI single in the third off Cleveland's Trevor Bauer and had another in the Cubs' three-run fifth — highlighted by Ben Zobrist's run-scoring triple.

In Game 1, Schwarber doubled and walked.

"No, it's not that easy, first off. Baseball's a crazy game," he said.

Even the presence of star LeBron James and the NBA champion Cavaliers, sporting their new rings, couldn't stop the Indians from losing for the first time in six home games this postseason.

And Cleveland manager Terry Francona's magical touch in October finally fizzled as he dropped to 9-1 in Series games.

"We gave up nine hits, eight walks, two errors, and we only gave up five runs," Francona said. "For us to win, we generally need to play a clean game, and we didn't do that."

With rain in the forecast, Major League Baseball moved the first pitch up an hour in hopes of avoiding delays or a postponement.

It turned out to be a good call as the game went on without a hitch and ended after more than four hours as light rain was beginning to fall.

Arrieta and the Cubs provided the only storm.

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The bearded 30-year-old coasted through five innings without allowing a hit, and his no-hit bid was the longest in a Series game since Jerry Koosman of the New York Mets tossed six no-hit innings in 1969.

For a brief period, Arrieta looked as if he might challenge Larsen's gem — a perfect game — in 1956 before Indians second baseman Jason Kipnis, a die-hard Cubs fan as a kid, doubled with one out in the sixth .

Arrieta has two career no-hitters, in fact, including the only one in the majors this year.

"I knew I hadn't given up a hit all the way to the sixth," Arrieta said. "That's really not the focus in a game like this. Whether they get a hit or not really doesn't affect the way you continue to approach that lineup, especially with a five-run lead."

Kipnis was impressed.

"We didn't get much going," he said. "You have to tip your hat to Arrieta. He was awesome."

Cubs lefty Mike Montgomery replaced Arrieta and worked two scoreless innings before Aroldis Chapman came in and unleashed his 103 mph heat while getting the last four outs in his Series debut.

The teams will have an off day before the series resumes with Game 3 at Wrigley, which will host its first Series game since 1945, when tavern owner Billy Sianis was asked to leave with his pet goat, Murphy, and a curse was born.

Josh Tomlin will start for the Indians, who will lose the designated hitter in the NL ballpark, against Kyle Hendricks.

Schwarber might also wind up on the bench after two days as the DH. Maddon loves the way he's swinging but isn't sure he's ready to play in the outfield.

"That's something I'm waiting to hear from our guys, from our medical side, because obviously he looks good," he said. "He looks good at the plate. Running the bases he looks pretty good so far."

And the Cubs finally do, too, as they head home.

Unlike his start in Toronto on Oct. 17, when his stitched cut opened up and Bauer was forced to make a bloody departure in the first inning, his finger held up fine.

The Cubs, though, put a few nicks in him in 3 2/3 innings.

"I just wasn't sharp for whatever reason," Bauer said.

The drone accident has brought attention to the quirky Bauer, and one Chicago fan tried to rattle the right-hander by sending a smaller version of the remote-controlled, flying object that cut him.

Bauer posted a photo of it on Twitter, saying "I see the @Cubs fans love me! How nice of them to send me a gift!"

ODDS AND ENDS

Francona's nine-game winning streak was the third-longest in Series history, trailing Joe Torre (14) and Joe McCarthy (10). ... The Cubs are 7-1 this postseason when scoring first. ... The teams combined for a Series record-tying three wild pitches. ... Indians RHP Danny Salazar made his first postseason appearance since starting the 2013 AL wild-card game. ... This is the 58th time the Series has been tied 1-1. The Game 2 winner has won the title 29 times.

SHORT REST

Looking ahead, Francona has already decided he'll bring Corey Kluber back on short rest for Game 4. It wasn't much of a decision, really, after the right-hander confounded the Cubs in Game 1, painting the corners for six-plus innings.

UP NEXT

Cubs: Hendricks is coming off his brilliant performance in Game 6 of the NLCS when he pitched two-hit ball for 7 1/3 innings as the Cubs clinched their first pennant in 71 years. The right-hander led the majors with a 2.13 ERA.

Indians: It will be an emotional night for Tomlin, who will pitch on 12 days' rest with his ailing father, Jerry, in attendance. The elder Tomlin became stricken with a spinal condition in August, when the right-hander was struggling on the mound.

10 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press

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

1. MORE GOOD SIGNS FOR CLINTON IN KEY STATES

Millions of votes that have been cast already in the U.S. presidential election point to an advantage for the Democrat in Florida and North Carolina, both must-win states for Trump, as well as Nevada, Colorado and Arizona.

2. WHO FORMS POLITICAL ODD COUPLE

Hillary Clinton and Michelle Obama, two women who are a study in contrasts, are slated to campaign together for the first time in North Carolina.

3. SMALL TEMBLORS CONTINUE TO SHAKE ITALY

They are further unsettling thousands of residents displaced by a pair of powerful aftershocks to the deadly August quake.

4. WHY SPLIT IN U.S. NORTH KOREA STANCE SURPRISES

National Intelligence Director James Clapper's stakes out a position contrary to White House policy by saying there is little chance Pyongyang would agree to end its nuclear program.

5. WHERE PROTESTERS DEMAND END TO 'DICTATORSHIP'

Anti-government demonstrators pour into the streets of Venezuela's capital and other major cities in a show of force against the president.

6. POT FARMERS WORRY LEGALIZATION COULD END THEIR WAY OF LIFE

California voters will decide Nov. 8 whether to legalize marijuana for recreational use — an issue that has sown division here among growers.

7. U.S. STUDENTS STILL LAG IN SCIENCE LEARNING

The 2015 National Assessment of Educational Progress shows only about a third of fourth and eighth graders demonstrate strong academic performance in the sciences.

8. HOW SOME CHOOSE TO GET ORGAN TRANSPLANTS FASTER

Some patients are jumping ahead in line by agreeing to a kidney sure to infect them with hepatitis C.

9. CHANGES COULD COME TO TWITTER USERS

If Twitter is sold, a new owner could clean it up and curb some of the nastiness that's become synonymous with it.

10. EX-SUPREME COURT JUDGE AMONG LONG-SUFFERING CUBS FANS

In 1929, John Paul Stevens witnessed the first World Series game at Wrigley Field — and he's been waiting ever since for a championship.

Officials in quake-ridden central Italy assess damage

By ALESSANDRA TARANTINO and COLLEEN BARRY, Associated Press

VISSO, Italy (AP) — Officials in central Italy began early Thursday to assess the damage caused by a pair of strong earthquakes in the same region of central Italy hit by a deadly quake in August, as an appeal went out for temporary housing adequate for the cold mountain temperatures.

Thousands of people spent the night in their cars following the pair of quakes that struck late in the evening, sending residents into the streets in pouring rain, too late for authorities to come up with adequate shelter. A series of small shocks overnight, including two registering magnitudes above 4 before dawn, further unsettled residents.

The morning after the quakes, there remained no reports of serious injuries or signs of people trapped in rubble. The head of Italy's civil protection agency, Fabrizio Curcio, said it appeared that the situation "is not as catastrophic" as it could have been. A 73-year-old man died of a heart attack, possibly brought on by the quakes, local authorities told the ANSA news agency.

Mayors of towns scattered in the mountain region spanning the Umbria and Marche regions say many

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more homes were rendered uninhabitable, on top of those damaged in the August quake, while historic structures that survived previous quakes had succumbed this time.

Camerino Mayor Gianluca Pasqui said the town's historic bell tower had collapsed, but emphasized that reconstruction work after a 6.1 quake in 1997 appeared to have contributed to the absence of serious injury.

"I can say that the city didn't have victims. That means that even if there is a lot of damage probably the reconstruction in the historic center was done in a correct and adequate manner. Because otherwise, we would be speaking of something else," Pasqui told Sky TG24.

The president of Umbria region, Catuscia Marini, told RAI state television that officials are scrambling to come up with temporary housing, mindful that with winter approaching and temperatures dropping, tents can't be deployed as they were after the August quake. The concern for the predominantly elderly population of the remote mountain region was repeated by other officials.

Marini said that after the quakes many people will be fearful of staying even in hotels deemed safe, and that solutions like campers were being considered.

"We don't have injured, we have people who are very afraid, who have anxiety, especially the elderly," she said.

In Visso, Mayor Giuliano Passaglini said he was only able to provide shelter for a couple hundred residents overnight, and most people spent the night in their cars. About 800 people were without shelter in Visso.

Firefighters were helping residents to retrieve objects from their homes in the red zone. Most were intact, showing only cracks.

The first quake struck at 7:10 p.m. and carried a magnitude of 5.4. But the second one a little more than two hours later was eight times stronger at 6.1, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Officials said the fact that people had already left their homes when the second quake hit probably saved lives.

"Many houses collapsed," the mayor of hard-hit Ussita, Marco Rinaldi, told Sky TG24. "The facade of the church collapsed. By now I have felt many earthquakes. This is the strongest of my life. It was something terrible."

Rinaldi said two elderly people were rescued from their home, where they were trapped, and appeared to be in good condition.

Calling it "apocalyptic," he said the town and its hamlets were "finished." In addition to the town's church, the parish and other buildings also had suffered heavy damage, he added.

A church crumbled in the ancient Perugian town of Norcia, famed for its Benedictine monastery and its cured meats. A bell-tower damaged on Aug. 24 fell and crushed a building in Camerino, the ANSA news agency said. Elsewhere, buildings were damaged, though many were in zones that were declared off-limits after the Aug. 24 quake that flattened parts of three towns.

Schools were closed in much of the area Thursday as a precaution and a handful of hospitals were evacuated after suffering damage.

Premier Matteo Renzi, who cut short a visit to southern Italy to monitor the quake response, tweeted "all of Italy is embracing those hit once again."

The pope said in a message on Twitter that he is praying for the people hit by the quake.

The quakes, shaking buildings in Rome some 230 kilometers (145 miles) southwest of the epicenter, were actually aftershocks of the magnitude 6.2 earthquake from two months ago. Because they were so close to the surface — about 10 kilometers, or 6 miles — they have the potential to cause more shaking and more damage, "coupled with infrastructure that's vulnerable to shaking," said U.S. Geological Survey seismologist Paul Earle.

"They have a lot of old buildings that weren't constructed at a time with modern seismic codes," he said.

Barry reported from Milan.

APNewsBreak: Abu Sayyaf got \$7.3 million from kidnappings

By JIM GOMEZ, Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Abu Sayyaf pocketed at least 353 million pesos (\$7.3 million) from ransom kidnappings in the first six months of the year and have turned to abductions of foreign tugboat crewmen as military offensives restricted the militants' mobility, a confidential Philippine government report said.

The joint military and police threat assessment report seen by The Associated Press on Thursday said the offensives have reduced the number of Abu Sayyaf fighters slightly, although the group remains capable of launching terrorist attacks.

Government offensives have reduced the number of militants to 481 in the first half of the year from 506 in the same period last year but they managed to carry out 32 bombings in that time — a 68 percent increase — in attempts to distract the military assaults, the report said.

They wield at least 438 firearms and managed to conduct a number of terrorist trainings despite constant military assaults.

President Rodrigo Duterte, who took office in June, has ordered troops to destroy Abu Sayyaf, known for its brutality, and he has ruled out the possibility of any peace talks with them. He has pursued talks with two other larger Muslim insurgent groups.

Duterte's peace negotiations with communist rebels have led to cease-fire declarations that have halted years of fighting with Maoist guerrillas, which freed up the thousands of troops now redeployed to wage one of the largest offensives ever fought against the Abu Sayyaf in southern Sulu and Basilan provinces.

"The ASG shifted in targeting vulnerable foreign-flagged tugboats and their crew due to the focused military operations against the group," the report said, adding the group was expected to intensify its kidnap-for-ransom assaults in the busy waterways around the southern Philippines, Malaysia and Indonesia.

Abu Sayyaf's attacks on tugboats this year and the kidnappings of their Malaysian and Indonesian crewmen have raised security alarms from those countries, whose officials have tried to map out a strategy to protect commercial and passenger ships.

"Lucrative payoffs from KFR (kidnappings for ransom), the report said, "enabled the ASG to procure firearms as well as ammunitions."

Of the estimated 353 million pesos in ransom received by the Abu Sayyaf from January to June, the bulk was paid in exchange for the releases of 14 Indonesian and 4 Malaysian crewmen who had been held at Abu Sayyaf jungle bases in Sulu province, the report said.

The militants got 20 million pesos (\$413,000) in ransom for freeing Marites Flor, a Filipino woman who was kidnapped last year with two Canadians and a Norwegian from a yacht-berthing resort on southern Samal island.

Philippine officials have said they were unaware of any ransom paid for Flor or other hostages and added they continue to adopt a no-ransom policy.

The militants beheaded the two Canadians after ransom deadlines lapsed. Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau urged governments not to pay ransom to discourage similar abductions.

The Norwegian hostage, Kjartan Sekkingstad, was freed last month after a year of horrific jungle captivity when he was constantly threatened with beheading.

Prior to Sekkingstad's release, Duterte suggested at a news conference that 50 million pesos (\$1 million) had been paid to the militants.

The Philippine military has said the constant military assaults have forced the militants to release their hostages.

Clinton and Obama: First ladies form political odd couple

By KATHLEEN HENNESSEY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — When Hillary Clinton secured her place in the history as the first woman to win a major-party nomination for president, Democratic politicians around Washington marked the historic moment with barrage of statements, formal endorsements and public cheers.

One political figure, however, was notably silent: Michelle Obama.

The first lady let her husband speak for her during that moment in June, choosing instead to wait weeks to lend her voice to Clinton's cause at the Democratic National Convention in what would become one of the most memorable moments in the campaign. It was the sort of careful choice that illustrated the gulf of differences between the current and former first ladies, women who have chartered very different paths through public life and are now locked in marriage of mutual interest.

When they campaign together for the first time Thursday, the event in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, will bring together one of the least traditional first ladies in modern history with one who has fully embraced tradition.

Clinton dove into policy, undertook a massive project and failed under a harsh spotlight. Mrs. Obama largely steered clear and enjoyed quieter, modest success. Both Ivy League-trained lawyers with their own careers, Clinton bridled under the stereotypes associated with the office, Mrs. Obama declared herself "mom-in-chief" (and let it be known she prefers the Mrs. title before her last name).

And when her time in the White House was ending, Clinton began plotting her return to Washington. Mrs. Obama hasn't hid her readiness to leave.

Asked if Mrs. Obama would ever consider running for president herself, White House officials who rarely speak for the first lady don't hesitate.

"No," White House spokesman Josh Earnest said flatly.

That's crushing news to the Democrats who have relished Mrs. Obama's speeches in support of Clinton as high-points of the campaign cycle. Mrs. Obama's passionate response to Trump's vulgar comments about women has brought an emotional resonance to Clinton's bid that the candidate, who rarely gets personal on the stump, doesn't often deliver.

Mrs. Obama's appearances have become a key part of Clinton's effort to fire up women, particularly black women for whom she's a model and a source of pride. (Clinton even quotes Mrs. Obama's DNC speech on the stump: "When they go low, we go high.") Mrs. Obama, meanwhile, has her own reasons for stumping for Clinton and campaigning against Republican Donald Trump.

"I think Mrs. Obama really wants to make sure her husband's legacy is maintained and Mrs. Clinton is the way to get there," said Myra Gutin, a professor at Rider University who has written about first ladies and women in politics.

The partnership has on one level made for a striking political odd couple.

As first lady, Mrs. Obama has largely dodged controversial issues. She's stayed focused on her projects involving healthy eating, exercise, support for military families and education for girls — and not publicly expressed opinions on thornier subjects. She's mastered the art of advocacy through popular culture, while, in recent years, all-but ignoring the possibility of policymaking through legislation. She's cultivated a brand built on style, glamour and fashion.

It's a tenure that bears little resemblance to her Democratic predecessor in the East Wing. Clinton came in promising, along with her husband, a new kind of partnership in charge at the White House. Hillary Clinton was a veteran of the feminist movement and ready to expand the office of first lady to suit her experience and passion for policy. She had an office in the West Wing, took over the health care overhaul effort and ultimately became a target of investigations and criticism alongside her husband.

It was a history Mrs. Obama and her aides sought to avoid. Asked to cite role models, Obama has named Eleanor Roosevelt and Jacqueline Kennedy. The Clintons and Obamas, of course, have a fraught history, one that includes both spouses. While Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton battled in 2008, Michelle Obama raised questions about her husband's opponent, framing the choice between the two as "about character."

Since then the women have publicly buried the hatchet. They've appeared at countless events together and heaped praised on each other's work, although there's little sign they've spent time one-on-one.

Comparing how first ladies use the office is especially tricky, historians note. Because the office comes with no set of constitutional duties, it is also a reflection of an individual's style, personality, politics and times.

The differences between Clinton and Mrs. Obama's tenures speak in some ways to the differences in their generations — Clinton representing the first wave of baby boomers eager to push boundaries, while Obama benefited from lessons learned, noted Carl Sferrazza Anthony, a historian at the National First Ladies Library.

"Beneath the surface they both brought a sense of rigor and structure and focus," he said. "They were very objective oriented."

Those objectives were clearly different, he said.

"I think Michelle Obama may end up being perhaps one of the most influential first ladies when it comes to influence on the America public, whereas Hillary has been one of the most important in terms of achievement in terms of policy."

Bid to speed transplants with hepatitis C-infected kidneys

By LAURAN NEERGAARD, AP Medical Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Some patients facing a years-long wait for a kidney transplant are jumping ahead in line thanks to a startling experiment: They're agreeing to an organ almost sure to infect them with hepatitis C.

Knowingly transmitting a dangerous virus may sound drastic but two leading transplant centers are betting the strategy will save lives — if new medications that promise to cure hepatitis C allow use of organs that today go to waste.

Pilot studies are under way at the University of Pennsylvania and Johns Hopkins University to test transplanting kidneys from deceased donors with hepatitis C into recipients who don't already have that virus. If the research eventually pans out, hundreds more kidneys — and maybe some hearts and lungs, too — could be transplanted every year.

"We always dreaded hepatitis C," said Dr. Peter Reese, a Penn kidney specialist who is helping lead the research. "But now hepatitis C is just a different disease," enough to consider what he calls the tradeoff of getting a new kidney years faster but one that comes with a hopefully treatable infection.

It's a tradeoff prompted by the nation's organ shortage. More than 99,000 people are on the national kidney waiting list but only about 17,000 people a year get a transplant and 4 percent a year die waiting, according to the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS).

"If we had enough organs, we wouldn't do this," said Dr. Niraj Desai, who is leading the Hopkins study. But, "most patients are pretty open to the idea once they hear what the alternatives are."

Doctors had told Irma Hendricks, 66, to expect at least a five-year wait for a kidney transplant. Dialysis three times a week was keeping the East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, woman alive but left her with no energy for even routine activities. "I call it the zombie syndrome," she said.

So she jumped at the chance to enroll in Penn's study, even though doctors made clear they hoped for but couldn't guarantee a hepatitis cure.

"My son said, 'Mom, this is a no-brainer. Just do it,'" Hendricks said, She swallowed an anti-hepatitis pill daily for three months, in addition to the usual post-transplant medications. Testing showed the drugs rapidly cleared hepatitis C out of her bloodstream. And with her new kidney functioning well, she now has enough energy to play with her toddler grandson.

"This is giving people in my situation new hope," Hendricks said.

Kidney transplant specialists are closely watching the research.

"It makes sense to me," said Dr. Matthew Cooper, a transplant surgeon at MedStar Georgetown University Hospital, who is not involved in the research. He cautioned that the studies should use only kidneys that

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are young and otherwise high-quality, and that patients must understand the risks.

"They need to know you place their safety as the highest priority," Cooper said. "But at the same time, recognize that we have these obstacles. We don't want people to die on dialysis and there are not enough organs available for everybody."

Hepatitis C is a simmering infection that, if untreated, over two to three decades can quietly destroy someone's liver. At least 2.7 million people in the U.S. have chronic hepatitis C. Until a few years ago, it was treatable only by medications with grueling side effects and poor cure rates. Now, breakthrough drugs promise to cure 95 percent of hepatitis C cases with fewer side effects — for people who can afford them. Treatment costs tens of thousands of dollars.

Normally, hepatitis C-infected organs are transplanted only into patients who already have hepatitis C themselves, so as not to further spread the virus.

Giving hepatitis C-positive organs to hepatitis C-negative recipients is allowed if the patient agrees, but it's rare, said Dr. David Klassen, UNOS' chief medical officer. UNOS statistics show a few dozen such transplants, mostly kidneys, last year, presumably when doctors feared their patients wouldn't survive the wait for a healthier organ.

More often, hospitals discard hepatitis C-infected organs. Reese and fellow Penn transplant surgeon Dr. David Goldberg found only 37 percent of hepatitis C-positive kidney donations between 2005 and 2014 were transplanted. The discards could have helped more than 4,000 patients during that time period, they reported in the *New England Journal of Medicine* last year.

And the opioid epidemic is prompting a jump in donations from people who died of drug overdoses — typically young organs that, absent an infection risk, would be sought after.

The small Penn and Hopkins trials are a first step; much larger studies are needed to prove if more routine use of these organs in immune-suppressed transplant recipients really works.

Cost also is a question. Merck & Co. is helping to fund the pilot trials, donating its medication Zepatier, which costs \$54,000 for a round of treatment. That's still cheaper than a lifetime of a dialysis, which costs about \$75,000 a year, UNOS' Klassen noted.

While the studies began with kidneys because of their demand, "I don't think there's any reason, if it proves safe and effective in kidneys, that we wouldn't want to try it in other organs," noted Penn's Goldberg.

Even if the hepatitis C-infected organs prove useful, the nation still is "desperate for more donors," cautioned Hopkins' Desai. "It's a practical solution to help some of the people. It won't solve the problem."

Associated Press Writer Michael Rubinkam contributed to this report.

Trump, Clinton view his business career much differently

By LISA LERER and JILL COLVIN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Donald Trump says his new Washington hotel serves as a testament to why he should be president. Hillary Clinton says Trump is "the poster boy for everything wrong with our economy."

"Under budget and ahead of schedule. So important. We don't hear those words so often, but you will," said Trump, linking the hotel redevelopment — just blocks from the White House — to his promised performance as president. "Today is a metaphor for what we can accomplish for this country."

Trump's political aspirations have long been deeply intertwined with promoting his corporate goals. He announced his campaign in the gilded lobby of Trump Tower in Manhattan and has held dozens of campaign events at his own properties. His remarks at his new Washington hotel, which has struggled to fill rooms amid the controversy surrounding his presidential bid, followed a visit Tuesday to his Doral golf course outside Miami.

In Charlotte later Wednesday, Trump unveiled what he billed a "New Deal for black America" in front of a mostly white crowd. Trump, who has struggled to earn the support of minority voters, bemoaned that "too many African-Americans have been left behind" and unveiled a handful of new proposals aimed at revitalizing impoverished urban areas.

They included new tax incentives for inner cities, new micro-loans for African Americans to start com-

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panies and hire workers and reinvestment of money from suspended refugee programs in inner cities.

He also wants cities to be able to seek federal disaster designations to help them rebuild infrastructure, demolish abandoned buildings and invest in law enforcement.

As Trump cut the ribbon at his Washington hotel, Clinton was slamming his business practices in Florida, a state he must win to have any chance on Nov. 8. In Tampa, she was introduced by restaurateur Jose Andres, a naturalized U.S. citizen who pulled out of the Washington hotel to protest Trump's anti-immigrant rhetoric. Trump and Andres are currently locked in litigation over the deal.

Trump's unusual travel schedule, coming amid signs that the controversy surrounding his campaign has hurt his corporate brand, raises questions about whether the GOP nominee has begun to turn some of his focus to postelection plans.

Trump supporters defended his strategy, blasting critics for not making as big a deal of Clinton's decision to attend an Adele concert Tuesday night.

"I can't take one hour off to cut a ribbon at one of the great hotels of the world? I mean, I think I'm entitled to it," he said, in an interview with ABC News.

Clinton told reporters: "I was struck today that Donald Trump was paying more attention to his business than to the campaign. That's his choice but we're going to keep working really hard to reach as many voters as possible."

Still, Clinton has turned some of her focus to what happens after Nov. 8, though her efforts assume she wins. Deep in transition planning, she's also begun expanding the scope of her campaign to help down-ballot Democrats — her party sees an opportunity to win control of the Senate and reduce its deficit in the House — and retooling her campaign message to emphasize unifying the country after a divisive race.

"What Trump has done is to make it possible for people who had racist, sexist and all kinds of prejudices and bigotry to put them right out there," Clinton said on "The Breakfast Club," a syndicated radio show based in New York City. "I'm not going to be able to wave a magic wand and change everybody's thoughts."

Wednesday was the candidate's 69th birthday, a milestone she started celebrating a day early on Univision's entertainment news show "El Gordo y La Flaca," where she was feted with a bottle of tequila and a large cake featuring her face. In her appearance on "The Breakfast Club," popular with African-American voters, singer Stevie Wonder serenaded the woman he called "Madam President Clinton."

Associated Press writers Jonathan Lemire in Washington and Ken Thomas in Tampa, Florida, contributed.

Modest gains, but US students still lag in science learning

By JENNIFER C. KERR, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The vast majority of U.S. students still lack a solid grasp of science despite some modest gains by fourth and eighth graders, especially girls and minorities.

The problem is particularly acute among the nation's high school seniors.

The 2015 National Assessment of Educational Progress, often called the Nation's Report Card, released Thursday shows only about a third of fourth and eighth graders demonstrated strong academic performance in the sciences. Among 12th graders, just one in five were proficient or above in science.

"We still are not at a place as a country where we are preparing the future STEM workforce that we need," Education Secretary John B. King Jr., said referring to science, technology, engineering, and math courses. "We think there's significant work still to do, but we are heartened by the progress that we see in these results."

Average scores on the science exam were up four points in grades 4 and 8, and unchanged for 12th grade, compared to 2009. The results also show that fourth-grade girls had closed the gender gap and were now performing as well as boys. In eighth grade, that gender gap had tightened.

Achievement gaps among white, black and Hispanic students narrowed, too, at grades four and eight, as minority students made greater gains, said Peggy Carr, acting commissioner at the National Center for Education Statistics.

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Before the results were released, science teacher Lisa Hegdahl at McCaffrey Middle School in Galt, California, said her eighth-grade students have a huge interest in science, often wanting to continue their work outside the classroom.

"It's great because we were trying to show kids that science isn't just about the classroom. It's about the world you live in," Hegdahl, president of the California Science Teachers Association, said in an interview. "It's about why that tree is growing. It's why it's making a shadow and why that shadow changes over time. It's getting them to see the world a little bit differently and starting to be curious."

Nationally, the test results showed that 38 percent of fourth-grade students were considered proficient or above in science. In eighth grade, 34 percent were proficient or above. Only 22 percent of 12th graders scored proficient or above. The rest were at or below the basic level.

At the state level, Arizona had the biggest gain for fourth graders, scoring 11 points higher on the exam compared to 2009. Tennessee and Georgia followed, each with an eight-point gain. In eighth grade, the winners were Utah and Tennessee with tied for first place with a nine-point gain, followed by South Carolina and Mississippi, which each had an eight-point score gain over 2009. State level results were not available for 12th grade.

The Nation's Report Card is the largest nationally representative continuing assessment of what American students know and don't know in various subjects. The science test measures students' knowledge of physical science, life science, and Earth and space sciences.

In fourth grade, the overall average score was 154 on a scale of 300 total points. The average score also was 154 for eighth grade.

For high school seniors, the average score was 150, flat from the last time the test was administered in 2009.

Early voting: More good signs for Clinton in key states

By HOPE YEN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The millions of votes that have been cast already in the U.S. presidential election point to an advantage for Hillary Clinton in critical battleground states, as well as signs of strength in traditionally Republican territory.

The strong early-voting turnout by those likely to support Clinton — registered Democrats, minorities, and young people among others — could leave Donald Trump with virtually no path to the 270 electoral votes needed for victory.

Clinton is showing strength in Florida and North Carolina, both must-win states for Trump, as well as the battleground states of Nevada, Colorado and Arizona. There are even favorable signs for Clinton in Republican-leaning Utah and Texas.

"It's going to be a very tall order for Trump to win," said Michael McDonald, a University of Florida professor who specializes in election turnout. Other analysts also point to a strong finish for Clinton based on the early vote.

Early voting, via mail or in-person, is underway in 37 states. More than 12.5 million votes have been cast, far higher than the rate in 2012, according to Associated Press data. In all, more than 46 million people — or as much as 40 percent of the electorate — are expected to vote before Election Day, Nov. 8.

A look at the latest trends:

POSITIVE SIGNS FOR CLINTON IN NORTH CAROLINA, FLORIDA

The Clinton campaign describes both North Carolina and Florida as "checkmate" states. Trump probably can't win if he loses either.

After trailing in mail ballots, Democrats surged ahead of Republicans in North Carolina ballots cast after the start of in-person early voting last week. Democrats currently lead in ballots submitted, 47 percent to 29 percent.

In-person voting is off to a slower start for both Democrats and Republicans compared to 2012, when

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Republican Mitt Romney narrowly won the state. But many Democratic-leaning counties reduced the number of polling stations in the first week, a likely factor in the decline. Several of those counties are opening more stations this week.

In Florida, more than 2 million voters have already returned ballots. In-person voting began Monday, and Democrats have pulled virtually even with Republicans, at 41 percent each. That's a much faster rate of catch-up than in 2012 and 2008, when Barack Obama won the state.

This year's numbers are troubling for Republicans.

"If current early vote trends hold, it's a real possibility that Clinton can sweep a majority of swing states including Florida," said Scott Tranter, co-founder of the Republican data analytics firm Optimus.

LATINOS, YOUNG PEOPLE BUOY DEMOCRATS IN WEST

Once Republican states, Nevada, Arizona and Colorado are in play for Democrats. All are crucial for Trump.

Overall ballots in Nevada are down but the Democratic lead widened after the start of in-person voting last week. Democrats lead in returned ballots, 46 percent to 35 percent. Ballots from older white voters declined significantly while those from Hispanics and Asian-Americans rose.

Nearly 70 percent of all Nevada ballots were cast early in 2012; Obama won the state by 6 percentage points.

Early voting is surging in Arizona, normally a Republican state but one that Clinton has targeted. More than 616,000 ballots have been cast and Democrats are about even with Republicans, 37 percent to 38 percent. Another 25 percent were independent or unknown. At this point in 2012, Republicans led by more than 7 percentage points. Ballots rose in Arizona especially among younger adults and Latinos.

In Colorado, where early voting has been by mail, Democrats led 40 percent to 34 percent among the 416,000 ballots returned. In 2012, Democrats trailed Republicans at this point by 10 percentage points. Since then, registered Democrats have surpassed Republicans in the state.

EARLY SOFTNESS FOR TRUMP IN UTAH, TEXAS

The trends out West may bode well for Democrats in two Republican strongholds.

In Utah, overall ballots are up from 2012, driven by faster gains among voters ages 22 to 49, according to Catalist, a Democratic analytical firm. Republicans barely led in total ballots cast compared to independents, 38.6 percent to 38.5 percent. That could mean that Evan McMullin, a third-party candidate, is drawing support from Republicans unhappy with Trump. Democrats still trail at 19.4 percent, but they're in an improved position from 2012, when Republicans held a 58 percent to 13 percent lead.

Texas began in-person voting Monday. More than 969,000 ballots were cast as of late Tuesday, based on reports from the top 15 counties, a 46 percent increase. The state did not provide breakdowns by party. The Clinton campaign believes higher turnout, especially among Latinos, could give it an edge.

CAN WHITE SUPPORT HELP TRUMP?

Boosted by white voters, Trump may still hold an edge in Ohio, Iowa and Georgia — states that still won't be enough for him to garner the presidency without multiple come-from-behind wins in Democratic-leaning states.

In Ohio, the heavily Democratic counties of Cuyahoga and Franklin continue to show double-digit declines in ballot requests compared to 2012. The state does not break down ballots by party affiliation. By race, voter modeling by Catalist found the white share of Ohio ballot requests was up to 91 percent from 87 percent. The black share declined to 7 percent from 10 percent.

Democrats lead early ballot requests in Iowa, 43 percent to 35 percent. But that lead is narrower than 2012, when Democrats held an advantage of 14 percentage points. Obama ultimately won the state by 5 percentage points.

And in Georgia, which does not report party affiliation, ballots submitted are up from 2012, but mostly among whites.

The white share of ballots rose a percentage point to 66 percent. The black share fell to 31 percent from

34 percent, according to Catalyst.

AP's Election Research and Quality Control Group contributed to this report.

Follow Hope Yen on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/hopeyen1>

Sale or no sale, changes could come to Twitter users

By BARBARA ORTUTAY, AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Sale or no sale, Twitter users are bound to see changes as the beleaguered communications service tries to broaden its appeal to more people and advertisers.

A new owner could clean up Twitter and curb some of the nastiness that's become synonymous with it. Or perhaps a new owner would just show more ads. Or let it languish while it mines the best of what Twitter now has into its existing products and services.

All of this is speculation, of course, and there might not even be a new owner. Twitter's stock has plunged after rumored bidders are, well, rumored to be no longer interested. The company is scheduled to report its third-quarter earnings on Thursday, and analysts are expecting lukewarm results along with a dismissal of takeover rumors. Layoffs are also likely.

A new parent — whether that's Google (huh?), Salesforce (who?) or Disney (hmm...) — could inject fresh life into a 10-year-old company that's never turned a profit and remains confounding to many people. Of course, none of these potential suitors have acknowledged interest in Twitter, let alone their plans for it. Even if Twitter stays independent, drastic changes to its service might just be what Twitter needs to be competitive with Facebook, Instagram and Snapchat.

How might it change?

TWITTER BECOMES MORE LIKE ITS NEW OWNER, IF THERE IS ONE

Facebook's absorption of Instagram and WhatsApp in recent years could offer clues. Both services have kept separate identities, to an extent, and have experienced user growth. But slowly, they are acquiring Facebook-like features. For example, Instagram no longer presents feeds chronologically; they are now sorted much like Facebook's news feed, using some secret formula known only to Facebook.

Though the change has turned off some early Instagram users, its user base has soared, to 500 million as of June. That's nearly 200 million more than Twitter, even though Instagram is three years younger. As Instagram gets more users and a mainstream appeal, its content has diluted somewhat. But many of the street photographers, graffiti artists and tween mini-celebrities who made Instagram what it is are still there — maybe just harder to find.

STAYS THE SAME BUT WITH MORE ADS

Twitter has never turned a profit, and whoever buys it will need to fix this. That means boosting the user base, so advertisers would follow. That also could mean better targeting, so that ad rates go up.

Google, anyone? The search giant is the leader in online ads. Imagine what its might and muscle could do to Twitter's ad business. YouTube hardly had any ads when Google bought it; now, ads are so prevalent that YouTube is able to charge \$10 a month for an ad-free version called Red.

Instagram has also inserted ads into users' feeds of perfectly composed snapshots featuring everything from cappuccino foam to seafoam. It started out slowly with a carefully curated ad here and there, but today you're not likely to avoid ads when opening the app.

A TOOL FOR BRANDS, NOT REVOLUTION

Jonathan Cowperthwait, a Twitter user since 2008, said he'd be worried if Google bought Twitter because the online search giant "is the worst" at social services that aim to foster online interactions, beyond email. Its Google Plus service never took off; Orkut and Dodgeball closed. Cowperthwait said that rather than let

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Twitter live independently, Google might "try to shoehorn it back into their own social product."

Salesforce, a company that provides internet services to businesses, has also been mentioned as a contender, leading to a lot of head-scratching among users. Would Twitter become a business product, used for customer service and marketing instead of revolutions, neo-Nazi memes and political outbursts?

"Salesforce is a very technology-driven company," eMarketer analyst Debra Aho Williamson said. "It seems they would want (Twitter) mostly for the data that Twitter has."

THE LITTLE BIRD FALLS OUT OF THE NEST

Remember MySpace? It was — the — social network before Facebook came along. News Corp., the stodgy media conglomerate, bought it for \$580 million in 2005. But users started falling off as MySpace failed to keep up with Facebook's speedy innovations. After layoffs and failed relaunches, News Corp. sold the fallen giant for \$35 million in 2011, and that was just about the end of it.

It's not unthinkable that Twitter could suffer the same fate under a big media company.

SILENCE!

Walt Disney's reputation as a squeaky-clean, family-friendly company is perhaps the clearest antithesis to Twitter's soul, as many users see it — even though Disney is much bigger than Mickey Mouse and owns ABC, Marvel and the "Star Wars" franchise, among other properties.

"My chief fear is that Disney will wield Twitter as one large PR machine to prop up their image and squash dissent," said Timothy Hayes, an Ohio State University student who says he fell in love with Twitter in high school. "The Mouse is not above silencing (its) opponents."

Some users, on the other hand, might welcome some thorough housecleaning that goes beyond the steps Twitter is currently taking to curb abuse and nasty behavior on its service. One Twitter user, New York attorney Danny Mann, says that while Google has improved YouTube "in ways that were unimaginable at the time," he finds many of his fellow YouTube users difficult to deal with. In this sense, it's possible that even with Google's weight behind it, the abusive and nasty nature of many Twitter comments would remain as is.

76ers anthem singer says 'We Matter' shirt got her the boot

By DAN GELSTON and MESFIN FEKADU, Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Philadelphia 76ers national anthem singer Sevyn Streeter said she was told by the team she could not perform because of her "We Matter" jersey.

She was scheduled to sing before the Sixers' season opener against the Oklahoma City Thunder, but said in an interview with The Associated Press late Wednesday she was told she would not sing just minutes before her performance.

"I'd say two minutes before we were about to walk out ... the organization told me that I could not wear my shirt while singing the national anthem at their game," the R&B singer said by phone. "I was never given any kind of dress code. I was never asked beforehand to show my wardrobe."

The Sixers declined to say why Streeter's performance was canceled.

"The Philadelphia 76ers organization encourages meaningful actions to drive social change. We use our games to bring people together, to build trust and to strengthen our communities. As we move from symbolic gestures to action, we will continue to leverage our platform to positively impact our community," the Sixers said in a statement.

The Sixers had a member of their dance team sing the anthem.

Streeter has written songs for Chris Brown, Ariana Grande and other stars. In 2013, she had a Top 40 hit with "It Won't Stop," a duet with Brown that reached RIAA gold status.

The singer, born Amber Denise Streeter, said she was very hurt by the NBA team's actions.

"I was angry, extremely, extremely angry and disappointed and honestly brought to tears by all of it. It broke my heart," she said. "Honestly, I was very excited about being able to perform the national anthem. I was really looking forward to that."

This isn't the first time the Sixers were dragged into a national anthem controversy. A woman performing the national anthem before an NBA preseason game in Miami did so while kneeling at midcourt.

Denasia Lawrence opened her jacket just before she started to sing, revealing a "Black Lives Matter" shirt, then dropped to her left knee and performed the song. She said it was her way of protesting racial oppression.

The anthem issue has been a major topic in the sports world in recent months, starting with the decision by San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick to not stand while it is played. Kaepernick cited racial injustice and police brutality among the reasons for his protest, and athletes from many sports — and many levels, from youth all the way to professional — have followed his lead in various ways.

"I also felt it was important to express the ongoing challenges and ongoing injustice we face as a black community within the United States of America — that's very important to me," Streeter said. "Yes, we live in the greatest country in the world but there are issues that we cannot ignore. This can't be ignored."

Mesfin Fekadu reported from New York City.

Weed as way of life: California farmers divided on legal bud

By PAUL ELIAS, Associated Press

GARBERVILLE, Calif. (AP) — Laura Costa's son and husband moved quickly with the pruning shears to harvest the family's fall marijuana crop, racing along with several workers to cut the plants and drop them in plastic bins ahead of an impending storm.

The rain could invite "bud rot," Costa said, "a big no-no."

The farm, hidden along a winding mountain road in a remote redwood forest, is just one of many illegal "grows" that make up Northern California's famous Emerald Triangle, a rural region that developed over decades into a marijuana-producing mecca at the intersection of Humboldt, Mendocino and Trinity counties.

California voters will decide Nov. 8 whether to legalize marijuana for recreational use — an issue that has sown deep division here among longtime growers. The Costa family and many other pot farmers have yearned for the legitimacy and respectability that growers of legal crops enjoy.

But they also fear Proposition 64 will bring big changes, including costly regulations and taxes, lower prices and the risk that corporate interests could put smaller operations out of business.

"It will end traditional marijuana farming like this," said Costa, 56, sitting in the middle of one of four 40-plant gardens, puffing on a glass pipe. "It will end our way of life."

That way of life is visible throughout the region. Four-wheel-drive vehicles often disappear down dirt roads to drop off workers and supplies. Indoor grows abound in business-park warehouses in Eureka, the region's largest city with a population of about 28,000, and in the garages of private homes in nearby affluent neighborhoods.

Marijuana is smoked as casually — and frequently — as cigarettes in many homes, and "strains" of weed are discussed and debated like wine or craft beer.

Young people from around the world flock here for work, many arriving without job offers. They hang out in Arcata's town square or along the main drag of Garberville, sitting on their camping gear, smoking weed and hoping a farmer picks them up for a job.

"We heard it was fun," said Rachel Perez, 22, who traveled from Spain with three companions seeking work as trimmers. They remained optimistic despite going without offers for two days.

Police complain that the seasonal nature of the farming means that many job-seekers go without work, exacerbating homelessness. They also worry about the risk of people driving under the influence of marijuana.

Law enforcement officials are urging voters to reject the measure, but it is leading in polls. Supporters have raised \$23 million, compared with \$1.6 million by opponents.

Northern California's marijuana industry has its roots in the mid-1980s, when the region became a quasi-

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military zone after President Ronald Reagan declared the war on drugs in 1982.

The next year, the Campaign Against Marijuana Planting — or CAMP — launched to wipe out illegal cannabis production in Northern California, where growers flocked because of its remoteness and temperate climate. The task force was composed of federal, state and local law enforcement officials, who erected roadblocks and often conducted door-to-door searches.

U2 spy planes and satellite images were used to locate illegal farms. Black helicopters dropped camouflaged drug agents armed with automatic rifles into the fields to chop down the crop.

The region soon surpassed Thailand as the United States' top marijuana supplier, but the CAMP operation drove the industry deeper underground. Skittish farmers formed tightly knit circles that relied on trusted distributors to get their crop to dealers and, ultimately, consumers.

"We trusted one another and relied on handshakes," says Swami Chaitanya, 73, a longtime grower in remote Mendocino County, about an hour south of Costa's farm. "Yes, rip-offs occurred. But it was dealt with internally."

Earlier this month, Chaitanya crumbled some of his renowned "Swami's Select" bud into a joint as big as a man's pinkie finger, lit it and took a deep drag before passing it to his wife, Nikki Lastreto, 61.

"It's called a grower's joint," Lastreto says of the mammoth joint before taking her own drag inside their sprawling home on Turtle Creek Ranch. The ranch is situated in a peaceful meadow of Hindu statutes and marijuana plants 5 miles down a tooth-rattling dirt road.

Chaitanya and his wife support Proposition 64. He says the 62-page ballot measure "is not perfect" but can be amended, and he rejects arguments that California should wait for a more grower-friendly law.

"If we wait, we will fall behind," Chaitanya said.

The Connecticut native and Wesleyan University graduate began growing marijuana shortly after arriving in San Francisco in 1969, during the so-called summer of love. He recalled growing a dozen plants hidden in the garden terraces of San Francisco's Telegraph Hill. He bought his Mendocino property 13 years ago.

In marijuana circles, he is a celebrity not only for the quality of his organically grown pot, but for his long beard, flowing white robes and passionate advocacy for the industry.

He, too, expects that large farms will proliferate if the measure passes. But he sees traditional growers surviving and thriving alongside the big farms, which he predicts will produce mediocre marijuana to satisfy a non-discriminating mass market. Chaitanya and other traditional growers who support Proposition 64 believe discriminating consumers will pay a premium for Northern California marijuana.

About 10 miles down the road, grower Tim Blake says the measure is the next big step for an industry emerging from the shadows. When California became the first state to legalize medical marijuana in 1996, he said, it ushered in a less-restrictive era in which businesses could start to operate in the open and even attract investors.

The provision also would wipe clean many criminal convictions and stop the prosecution of other marijuana-related crimes.

"It's time to end criminalization," Blake said. "There is a lot of fear among farmers, small farmers in general," about losing their livelihood and "the way things have been. But they've already lost that aspect."

If the proposition fails, Blake argues, California would be in danger of losing its position as the nation's top-producing marijuana region. Four other states and the District of Columbia have legalized recreational pot, and four more states have questions on the November ballot.

"We can't afford to fall further behind," he said, giving a tour of his farm.

Farmers are so divided that the California Growers Association, which represents 450 farmers and 350 supporting businesses, voted to remain neutral.

"Nobody, not even the supporters, think this is a home run," association president Hezekiah Allen said. "A lot of people think California can do better."

Allen helped craft the measure and said the association is responsible for the prohibition against marijuana farms larger than an acre during the first five years of legalization. He said "that should be enough time" for small farmers to come out of the shadows, get licensed and get on making a living legally.

There is no evidence that Wall Street corporations are eyeing California if Proposition 64 takes effect on

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Jan. 1, 2018. U.S. tobacco companies say they have no plans to jump into the marijuana game.

Nonetheless, Costa and others say it's only a matter of time before other brands move in, upending a tight-knit community accustomed to doing business on its own terms.

For the first time, Christine Miller has retained a lawyer and an accountant to help wade through the potential regulatory issues and taxes that might affect her 250-plant farm in Benbow.

Miller, 39, has covered her plants and can wait a few more weeks to harvest because the wet weather isn't a concern. When it's time, her workers will cut bud-bearing branches from plants that can reach as high as 16 feet. Most are 6 to 8 feet.

The branches are then hung in a dark shed or barn for about a week until the buds dry. That's when trimmers are called in to separate the valuable buds from the rest of the plant and make them ready for market.

A conservative, back-of-the-envelope estimate is that each marijuana plant yields a pound of bud. But skilled farmers can usually coax three times that and sometimes more. One pound of Northern California marijuana fetches anywhere from \$1,000 to \$3,000 wholesale. Many farmers use a middleman to transport and distribute the drug to retailers, whether licensed medical dispensaries or corner dealers.

The drug often changes hands several times, getting marked up repeatedly, before it's consumed. What's more, alternative ways of getting high are becoming increasingly popular. Users are buying more marijuana-laced baked goods and candy and highly concentrated forms of cannabis called "dab."

Proposition 64 aims to regulate — and tax — that entire supply chain. Legalizing recreational use will legitimize the drug, leading to even more consumption, proponents argue.

"You're going to see cannabis grow at levels people can't even fathom," Blake said. "It's going to bring all that business back to California."

French authorities declare the Calais migrant camp empty

By **ELAINE GANLEY** and **GREGORY KATZ**, Associated Press

CALAIS, France (AP) — The grim camp known as "the jungle," a symbol of Europe's failure to come to grips with its crisis over asylum seekers, is no more.

French authorities declared Wednesday they had cleared out the camp after most of its thousands of residents were driven away on buses — an evacuation accelerated because some of the frustrated, departing migrants set fire to parts of the burgeoning slum.

Smoke hung in the air as dusk fell, its stench a reminder of how one of the world's wealthiest nations was unable to create order at the camp, where those fleeing war and poverty have lived in squalor for months or longer.

Most of the camp's former residents, foiled in their bid to enter Britain despite reaching the port city of Calais on the edge of the English Channel, are being relocated to communities throughout France, where authorities have pledged to give them decent shelter and advice about how to seek asylum so they can stay in Europe rather than return to trouble spots in the Middle East, Africa and Asia.

Some refused the offer, however, preferring to take their chances trying to hop trucks heading to ferries crossing the English channel or on the speeding Eurostar trains that connect France to Britain via the nearby Eurotunnel.

"This jungle is no good. We go to new jungle," said a 20-year-old Pakistani, Muhammad Afridi.

He said he was joining 30 friends in a place he refused to identify that could be used as a jumping off point for clandestine, and risky, passage to England.

Siddiq, a 17-year-old Afghan who spent 11 months in the camp, said the fires terrified him overnight, especially when gas tanks ignited. The Associated Press is not using the last names of teenage migrants because of their vulnerable situation.

He said he left and slept under a nearby bridge despite the freezing temperatures. He has been trying without success to get to Britain by truck.

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"My heart, it is broken," he said. "I can't do anything, even eat."

Crews were moving in Wednesday night with heavy equipment to clear the charred ruins and remove any tents and shelters that remained standing. Authorities said earlier that four Afghans were detained on suspicion of torching parts of the camp. The blazes slightly injured one person who was taken to a hospital.

"The camp is completely empty. There are no more migrants in the camp," said Prefect Fabienne Buccio, the state's highest authority in the region. "Our mission has been fulfilled."

Despite the pronouncement, migrants were seen milling around the edges of the camp, although officials said they would stop processing people by Wednesday evening.

Authorities said 5,596 people were evacuated in the complex operation that began Monday, including hundreds of unaccompanied minors being housed in heated containers at the camp. Britain took in 234 migrants with family ties in the UK.

Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve said 450 reception centers were set up across the country to help people apply for asylum. Those not rejected outright will go into centers or apartments for asylum seekers so that their applications can be examined the regular way. He has said most should qualify, but those who don't will be expelled.

Flames enveloped the main alley through the camp overnight, reducing shelters to skeleton-like hulks on either side of the road. Gas canisters popped as they exploded in the heat. One aid group's truck burst into flames.

Migrants stood and watched. Some laughed; others seemed dismayed. As the reality of the mass evacuation took hold, fearful asylum seekers from Afghanistan, Sudan, Eritrea, Syria and Pakistan braced for a new reality. Some pledged to just keep moving.

One Ethiopian, who gave only his first name, Binal, because he feared for his precarious situation, was among numerous migrants who refused to board buses on Wednesday, saying he wanted to try to get to England.

He said he was hopeful the government there would give him a house, although he and other migrants spoke poor English and didn't appear to understand the process of applying for asylum.

A teenage boy named Zia seemed confused — and lost.

"I want to go to the UK," he said. "Not staying here, the jungle finished. But I not understand where I go."

Katz reported from London. Associated Press Writer Sylvie Corbet in Paris contributed to this report.

2 quakes rattle Italy, crumbling buildings and causing panic

By NICOLE WINFIELD and COLLEEN BARRY, Associated Press

ROME (AP) — A pair of strong aftershocks shook central Italy late Wednesday, crumbling churches and buildings, knocking out power and sending panicked residents into the rain-drenched streets just two months after a powerful earthquake killed nearly 300 people.

But hours after the temblors hit, there were no reports of serious injuries or signs of people trapped in rubble, said the head of Italy's civil protection agency, Fabrizio Curcio. A handful of people were treated for slight injuries or anxiety at area hospitals in the most affected regions of Umbria and Le Marche, he said. A 73-year-old man died of a heart attack, possibly brought on by the quakes, local authorities told the ANSA news agency.

"All told, the information so far is that it's not as catastrophic" as it could have been, Curcio said.

The temblors were actually aftershocks to the Aug. 24 quake that struck a broad swath of central Italy, demolishing buildings in three towns and their hamlets, seismologists said. Several towns this time around also suffered serious damage, with homes in the epicenter of Visso spilling out into the street.

The first struck at 7:10 p.m. and carried a magnitude of 5.4. But the second one was eight times stronger at 6.1, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Because many residents had already left their homes with plans to spend the night in their cars or elsewhere, they weren't home when the second aftershock hit two hours later, possibly saving lives, officials said.

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"It was an unheard-of violence. Many houses collapsed," the mayor of hard-hit Ussita, Marco Rinaldi, told Sky TG24. "The facade of the church collapsed. By now I have felt many earthquakes. This is the strongest of my life. It was something terrible."

Rinaldi said two elderly people were rescued from their home, where they were trapped, and appeared to be in good condition. Some 200 people in Ussita were planning to sleep in the streets, given the impossibility of putting up tents so late at night.

Calling it "apocalyptic," he said the town and its hamlets were "finished." In addition to the town's church, the parish and other buildings also had suffered heavy damage, he added.

"The final count of damages will be done with the first lights of dawn," Rinaldi told The Associated Press. "It was something. The valley is small, and the fault passes here."

A church crumbled in the ancient Perugian town of Norcia, famed for its Benedictine monastery and its cured meats. A bell-tower damaged on Aug. 24 fell and crushed a building in Camerino, the ANSA news agency said. Elsewhere, buildings were damaged, though many were in zones that were declared off-limits after the Aug. 24 quake that flattened parts of three towns.

In nearby Visso, residents wrapped in blankets filled a Red Cross center, and that town's mayor said getting people water and something warm to eat or drink was the priority. Authorities were setting up makeshift dorms at the center and at a nearby gym.

"Tomorrow morning we'll need to get them bathrooms and something to eat. That's the next thing. Then, of course, we'll have to start putting up tents," Mayor Giuliano Pazzaglini said.

Many of Visso's residents were spending the night in their cars, as smaller aftershocks continued to rock the town through the night.

"We're without power, waiting for emergency crews," said Mauro Falcucci, the mayor of Castelsantangelo sul Nera, about 7 kilometers (4.5 miles) southeast of the epicenter. Speaking to Sky TG24, he said: "We can't see anything. It's tough. Really tough."

He said some buildings had collapsed, but that there were no immediate reports of injuries in his community. He added that darkness and a downpour were impeding a full accounting.

Schools were closed in several towns Thursday as a precaution and a handful of hospitals were evacuated after suffering damage.

Premier Matteo Renzi, who cut short a visit to southern Italy to monitor the quake response, tweeted "all of Italy is embracing those hit once again."

Italy's national vulcanology center said the first quake had an epicenter in the Macerata area, near Perugia in the quake-prone Apennine Mountain chain. The U.S. Geological Survey put the epicenter near Visso, 170 kilometers (105 miles) northeast of Rome, and said it had a depth of some 10 kilometers (six miles).

The second aftershock struck two hours later at 9:18 p.m. with a similar depth.

Experts say even relatively modest quakes that have shallow depths can cause significant damage because the seismic waves are closer to the surface. But seismologist Gianluca Valensise said a 10-kilometer depth is within the norm for an Apennine temblor.

The Aug. 24 quake that destroyed the hilltop village of Amatrice and other nearby towns had a depth of about 10 kilometers. Amatrice Mayor Sergio Pirozzi said residents felt Wednesday's aftershocks but "We are thanking God that there are no dead and no injured."

The original Aug. 24, 6.2-magnitude quake was still 41 percent stronger than even the second aftershock.

Wednesday's temblors were felt from Perugia in Umbria to the capital Rome and as far north as Veneto. It also shook the central Italian city of L'Aquila, which was struck by a deadly quake in 2009. The mayor of L'Aquila, however, said there were no immediate reports of damage there.

A section of a major state highway north of Rome, the Salaria, was closed near Arquata del Tronto as a precaution because of a quake-induced landslide, said a spokeswoman for the civil protection agency, Ornella De Luca.

The mayor of Arquata del Tronto, Aleandro Petrucci, said the aftershocks felt stronger than the August quake, which devastated parts of his town. But he said there were no reports of injuries to date and that the zone hardest hit by the last quake remained uninhabitable.

"We don't worry because there is no one in the red zone, if something fell, walls fell," he said.

In Rome, some 230 kilometers (145 miles) southwest from the epicenter, centuries-old palazzi shook and officials at the Foreign Ministry evacuated the building.

The quakes were actually aftershocks of the magnitude 6.2 earthquake from two months ago. Because they were so close to the surface, they have the potential to cause more shaking and more damage, "coupled with infrastructure that's vulnerable to shaking," said U.S. Geological Survey seismologist Paul Earle.

"They have a lot of old buildings that weren't constructed at a time with modern seismic codes," he said.

Given the size, depth and location of the quakes, the USGS estimates that about 24 million people likely felt at least weak shaking.

This original quake was about 20 kilometers (12 miles) northwest of the original shock, which puts it on the northern edge of the aftershock sequence and two months is normal for aftershocks, Earle said.

This version corrects the spelling of the mayor of Ussita to Rinaldi, not Rinaldo.

Barry contributed from Milan. AP science writer Seth Borenstein contributed from Washington; Alessandra Tarantino contributed from Visso, Italy; and Valentina Onori from Ussita, Italy.

Large anti-Maduro protests fill the streets in Venezuela

By JOSHUA GOODMAN and HANNAH DREIER, Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Anti-government protesters filled the streets of Venezuela's capital and other major cities in a show of force against Presidential Nicolas Maduro, whose allies enraged the opposition by blocking a recall referendum against the socialist leader.

Tens of thousands of demonstrators shut down Caracas' main highway on Wednesday, many chanting "Democracy yes! Dictatorship no!" And police clashed with protesters in other cities in what opposition leaders called "the takeover of Venezuela."

Nationwide at least 140 people were detained by police, according to the Foro Penal human rights group. A police officer was shot and killed, and two others injured, under unclear circumstances in central Miranda state.

"Maduro has shown how scared he is that the people will express themselves," opposition leader Henrique Capriles said.

The protests come after electoral authorities blocked a recall campaign against Maduro last week. The faceoff escalated on Tuesday when the opposition-led legislature voted to put Maduro on trial, accusing him of effectively staging a coup.

Opposition legislators argued that Venezuela's leader has effectively abandoned the presidency by neglecting his job. And many Venezuelans blame him for the country's triple-digit inflation, free-falling economy and shortages of food, medicines and other basic goods.

Government supporters staged a much smaller rally attended by Maduro downtown.

Opposition leaders ended Wednesday's national day of protest with call for a general strike on Friday. They also threatened to march on the presidential palace in the heart of the city on Nov. 3 if the government doesn't reverse its decision to block the recall effort.

The opposition has not been allowed to protest in front of the presidential palace since a massive march there helped precipitate a short-lived coup against former President Hugo Chavez in 2002.

On Wednesday, police fired tear gas and clashes with police in provincial capitals that left several wounded. In the border state of Tachira, the windows of the heavily-guarded regional electoral office were broken and anti-government slogans spray-painted on the entrance. In a video widely circulating on social media, a young man shouted in the face of soldier in riot gear maintaining a line against a crowd of masked protester.

"I'm going hungry! If you're going to shoot me because I'm hungry, shoot me," the protester said.

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In Caracas, students casually sat on the country's main highway. One protester dressed as Lady Justice, with a scale and white blindfold.

Victoria Rodriguez, 18, said she hopes to cast her first vote for the campaign to recall Maduro. A recent high school graduate, she said she feels like she's living in an emptying country; 15 of her 25 classmates have already left since graduating in July.

She said she is frustrated that opposition leaders haven't called for more dramatic action, like sleeping on the highway overnight or attempting to paralyze the capital for days at a time.

"People are tired of going to the streets and then going home," she said. "The opposition is letting the streets go cold. They are giving the government too much time to maneuver."

Congress was expected to take up the issue of Maduro's responsibility for the country's worsening political and economic crisis Thursday. The result of that debate is unlikely to have much impact, however.

Unlike other countries in Latin America such as Brazil, where Dilma Rousseff was removed from the presidency in August, Venezuela's National Assembly can't impeach the president. That power lies with the Supreme Court, which has never voted against Maduro.

The government and opposition have agreed on an attempt at dialogue to defuse the crisis.

Talks sponsored by the Vatican and other South American governments are set to begin Sunday in the Caribbean island of Margarita. Maduro, who met with Pope Francis privately at the Vatican on Monday, said he will travel to Margarita to personally launch the talks.

But the two sides have tried dialogue during previous crises, and the opposition has scant hope for a breakthrough. Although Venezuelans overwhelmingly blame Maduro for their economic woes the ruling party is in firm control of institutions like the military and has shown no interest in yielding to the opposition.

AP Writer Luz Dary Depablos contributed to this report from San Cristobal, Venezuela

Wal-Mart pushes service for holiday; Target stresses value

By ANNE D'INNOCENZIO, AP Retail Writer

TETERBORO, N.J. (AP) — Wal-Mart, long known for emphasizing low prices, wants to be known this holiday season for superior customer service. That comes after its main rival Target, which has a better image in that regard, stressed a focus on offering deals.

The world's largest retailer plans to deploy "holiday helpers" stationed at the checkouts, who can direct customers to registers with shorter lines or even run back to the aisles to pick up an item a customer forgot.

The ways in which Target and Wal-Mart are each trying to be more like the other underscore how traditional retailers have to raise their game in every aspect as shoppers who could easily shop online instead become more demanding about price, selection and service. Now, they have to be good at everything.

Wal-Mart has been working to improve service in its stores, but it's especially critical for the holiday season. It's adding additional staff to handle the pickup of online orders at the stores, and for the first time, it's designating a manager for that area for the holiday season. It also is dramatically adding more items that will be available for pickup. During the holiday season, Wal-Mart sees five times as many same-day pickup orders compared to a normal week. The goal: To make sure shoppers have an easy experience when they come to collect their orders.

The Bentonville, Arkansas-based retailer also plans to have 150,000 product demonstrations across its more than 4,600 U.S. stores, in departments from toys to food. That's up from last year. And Santas who used to remain stationary in one area of the store will roam around for more customer interaction. It expects about 23,000 appearances across its stores throughout the season.

"We want to serve the customer as they want to be served," Wal-Mart's Chief Operating Officer Judith McKenna, said at a store in Teterboro, New Jersey, on Wednesday.

Target, meanwhile, said Tuesday that about 60 percent of its marketing message this holiday season will be about value, up about 20 percent from last year. The Minneapolis-based retailer is repeating some of last year's promotions but also adding new ones aimed at getting shoppers to more areas of the store.

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Heading into the holiday shopping season, Wal-Mart has the momentum.

The company raised its profit outlook in August after reporting its eighth consecutive quarterly increase in a key revenue measure. The company has been benefiting from changes like cleaning up its stores and being sharper on prices. Wal-Mart's move to raise wages and increase training for hourly workers has also helped improve service.

Target, though, had cut its profit forecast as customer traffic fell for the first time in a year and a half during the second quarter. Its key revenue measure also fell, reversing seven straight quarters of gains. It blamed several factors, such as focusing too much on marketing its stylish merchandise and not enough on bringing in customers looking for deals on basics. Both retailers are slated to report third-quarter results next month.

"Wal-Mart has been benefiting from better service, and for this holiday season it should be a boon," said Ken Perkins, president of research firm Retail Metrics LLC. "I expect Wal-Mart will outpace Target. Target has a big price hurdle."

Target's move to emphasize value actually comes as Wal-Mart itself has made prices a renewed focus.

Steve Bratspies, chief merchandising officer for Wal-Mart's U.S. stores, said that just like last year, the company will focus on rollbacks that last 90 days, pulling away from shorter-term promotions. A Roku 32-inch HDTV TV that was priced at \$125 last year during a Black Friday sale will have the same price all season long this year.

Target knows it's facing a challenge.

"Value is the No. 1 determiner of where a guest will shop," said Rick Gomez, Target's senior vice president of marketing.

Follow Anne D'Innocenzio <http://twitter.com/ADInnocenzio>

At Trump hotel in Washington, alternate reality: All is well

By BETH J. HARPAZ, AP Travel Editor

WASHINGTON (AP) — Donald Trump may be spending most of his days inside the frantic hurricane of the presidential campaign, but inside his new hotel in Washington, calm and luxury prevail.

Staff members offer impeccable service, serving Champagne to guests waiting to check in and preparing rooms with turned-down covers and bedside chocolates. Trump's son, Donald Trump Jr., says he's confident the Trump International Hotel fronting Pennsylvania Avenue a few blocks from the White House will be a place for both Democrats and Republicans — no matter who wins.

"It's not designed to be a partisan hotel," Trump Jr. said. "It's a luxury hotel for all of D.C."

That remains to be seen. Hundreds of people protested outside the hotel during the ribbon-cutting Wednesday. The rally started as a protest demanding that Trump recognize union representation for workers at a Las Vegas hotel, but it broadened into a larger anti-Trump event.

Trump attended the ribbon-cutting, calling it a "metaphor for what we can accomplish" and taking precious time away from an apparently sagging campaign.

He summed up the project with only a few words: "under budget and ahead of schedule." And he noted the renovation and operation of the hotel had created hundreds of jobs.

The Trump Organization agreed to open the hotel by 2018 and invest \$200 million in it in a deal with the federal government, which owns the site. A Trump website describes the project as costing \$200 million, so it was unclear what the "under budget" statement referred to.

The hotel staff appears as diverse as any workforce in America — despite Trump's divisive remarks about immigrants, Muslims and other ethnic groups. A note atop the Gideon Bible in every guest room states that Qurans and other holy books are available upon request, a standard amenity at luxury hotels.

Trump supporter Brenda Dunaway, at the 263-room hotel with friends for lunch Wednesday, stood in the lobby beneath chandeliers and a soaring glass roof and gave her approval. "It's beautiful and tastefully

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done," she said. "I hope it's a big success."

Trump's inflammatory rhetoric led two celebrity chefs, Jose Andres and Geoffrey Zakarian, to back out of running restaurants in the hotel, but David Burke's Prime BLT is open in the lobby. Burke was on hand Tuesday night to chat with diners. No second restaurant has been announced.

The five-star Trump International Hotel is located in an 1899 landmark, the Old Post Office, which was in disrepair when the Trump Organization won a bid from the federal government to turn it into a hotel in 2013.

Nina Gardner, a consultant who lives in the area, decided to attend the protest when she heard about it Wednesday morning. "I'm totally against Donald Trump and his candidacy," she said.

She has friends who are boycotting Ivanka Trump's clothing and jewelry line, and she predicted his campaign would "end up hurting his business."

Rates at Trump hotels have been falling and some residents of a Trump apartment building in New York are trying to have the name removed. But Ivanka Trump insisted all was well as she stood by her father's side Wednesday: "Our business at Trump Hotels continues to thrive."

Rates start around \$400 most nights but cheapest rooms were over \$600 for the night before Trump's visit. Suites run into the thousands. Some five-star D.C. hotels charge much more.

The hotel's renovation has been criticized for an excess of glitz and gold leaf — signature Trump decor — while covering up marble floors with carpets and walls with drapes. The Trumps defend the renovation as a mix of old and new.

John Cullinane, an architect who worked on the project early on but left, had been among its critics, but declined to comment when reached by phone, saying the Trumps had sent him a letter threatening legal action.

The hotel's managing director, Mickael Damelincourt, said the hotel's prime D.C. location and 300,000 square feet of meeting space, along with the city's largest luxury ballroom, ensures its success. He said the hotel had already hosted two weddings and "board of director meetings from major corporations," but declined to identify any of the groups.

A clock tower that's part of the Old Post Office has traditionally been open to the public, offering views of the city from one of the highest points in Washington. It's closed for renovations, but Donald Trump Jr. said it should be open by the end of the year and will be operated by the National Park Service.

Rick Tyler, former spokesman for Trump's primary rival, Sen. Ted Cruz, said that "because it's in D.C., there's a layer of political consideration" among potential hotel guests. "But my guess is Donald Trump will lose and people will more or less forget about that," he said. "Very few will make a decision about staying there based on Donald Trump's candidacy."

Associated Press Television Writer David Bauder in New York contributed to this story.

AP-GfK Poll: Clinton appears on cusp of commanding victory

By JULIE PACE and EMILY SWANSON, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Hillary Clinton appears on the cusp of a potentially commanding victory over Donald Trump, fueled by solid Democratic turnout in early voting, massive operational advantages and increasing enthusiasm among her supporters.

A new Associated Press-GfK poll released Wednesday finds that Clinton has grabbed significant advantages over her Republican rival with just 12 days left before Election Day. Among them: consolidating the support of her party and even winning some Republicans.

"I'm going to pick Hillary at the top and pick Republican straight down the line," said poll respondent William Goldstein, a 71-year-old from Long Island, New York, who voted for Mitt Romney in 2012. "I can't vote for Trump."

Overall, the poll shows Clinton leading Trump nationally by a staggering 14 percentage points among likely voters, 51-37. That margin is the largest national lead for Clinton among recent surveys. Most have generally shown her ahead of Trump for the past several weeks.

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The AP-GfK poll finds that Clinton has secured the support of 90 percent of likely Democratic voters, and also has the backing of 15 percent of more moderate Republicans. Just 79 percent of all Republicans surveyed say they are voting for their party's nominee.

With voting already underway in 37 states, Trump's opportunities to overtake Clinton are quickly evaporating — and voters appear to know it. The AP-GfK poll found that 74 percent of likely voters believe Clinton will win, up from 63 percent in September.

Troubles with President Barack Obama's signature health care law have given Trump a late opening to warn voters against putting another Democrat in the White House. And the poll was taken before the government projected sharp cost increases.

But even Republicans question whether the rising price of insurance premiums is enough to overcome the damage the businessman has done to his standing with women and minorities.

"Donald Trump has spent his entire campaign running against the groups he needs to expand his coalition," said Whit Ayres, a Republican pollster who advised Florida Sen. Marco Rubio's failed presidential campaign. Ayres called Trump's campaign "strategically mindless."

Even if Clinton's support plummets in the contest's closing days, or she's unable to motivate strong turnout in her favor, it's not clear that Trump could marshal the resources to take advantage and collect enough states to win the 270 electoral votes needed to claim the White House.

Clinton's team has overwhelmed Trump's campaign in its effort to turn out voters.

An Associated Press review of campaign finance filings finds that her campaign, the Democratic National Committee and Democratic parties in 12 states have more than three times as many paid employees as Trump's campaign and the main Republican organizations supporting him. Clinton and Democrats had about 4,900 people on payroll in September, while Trump and Republicans had about 1,500.

Both sides benefit from legions of volunteers knocking on doors and making phone calls to voters, as well as outside forces such as unions and super PACs pitching in on voter turnout operations. But key Republican groups such as the ones funded by the conservative billionaire Koch brothers are sitting out the presidential race because of their distaste for Trump, further extending Clinton's likely advantage at getting out the vote.

The strength of the Democratic turnout effort appears to be paying dividends in states where voting is underway. Nationwide, more than 12 million voters have already cast ballots, according to data compiled by the AP, a pace far quicker than 2012.

In North Carolina, a must-win state for Trump, Democrats lead Republicans in early ballots, 47 percent to 29 percent. The Democrats hold an advantage even though turnout among blacks, a crucial voting bloc for Clinton in the state, is down compared to this point in 2012. Strategists in both parties attribute the lower black turnout in part to an early reduction in polling stations, though more sites are to open in the days leading up to Nov. 8.

In Florida, a perennial battleground, Democrats have drawn even to Republicans in votes cast, reaching that milestone faster than in 2012. Traditionally, Republicans do well initially with mail-in ballots. But Democrats were able to keep it close, putting Clinton in position to run up the score during in-person voting.

Clinton also appears to hold an edge in Nevada and Colorado based on early returns. David Flaherty, a Republican pollster based in Colorado, said the data signal "a Democrat wave in the making."

Buoyed by support from white voters, Trump looks strong in Ohio, Iowa and Georgia, a Republican state where Clinton is trying to make inroads. But wins in those states would still leave him well short of the required 270 Electoral College votes.

Trump's top advisers have conceded in recent days the businessman is trailing Clinton. But they point to his large rallies and enthusiastic supporters as an indication he could be poised for an upset. Clinton draws smaller crowds to her events and has been perceived by some voters as the lesser of two evils.

"We have a couple of different paths to get to 270 and we're actively pursuing them," Kellyanne Conway, Trump's campaign manager, told MSNBC on Monday.

The AP-GfK poll suggests Clinton's advantage is about more than just voter dislike for Trump. Clinton

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supporters are more likely than his backers to list their candidate's leadership, qualifications for the presidency and positions on issues as major factors in their support.

Although voters are still more likely to have an unfavorable than a favorable view of Clinton, her ratings have improved slightly in the past month. Forty-six percent of likely voters now say they have a favorable view of the former secretary of state, up from 42 percent in September. Just 34 percent of all likely voters have a favorable view of Trump.

Trump's unpopularity has opened surprising opportunities for Clinton as the White House race barrels toward its finish. Her campaign is actively competing for Arizona, a state that has voted for the Democrat in only one presidential race since 1952, and she is also spending money in Georgia, a reliably Republican state over the past two decades.

Both states have been on Democrats' wish lists in recent years given their increasingly favorable demographics, though the party had little expectation they might flip this year. Hispanics are a growing share of the Arizona electorate, while Georgia is on its way to becoming a majority-minority state.

The real electoral map surprise this year is Utah, one of the most conservative states in the country. Utah's heavily Mormon population has turned its back on Trump, providing an opening for third-party candidate and Utah native Evan McMullin to carry the state. Stripping Trump of six Electoral College votes Republicans have never had to worry about would further narrow his already slim path to victory.

With so much appearing to lean in their favor heading into Election Day, the Clinton campaign's biggest concern is that some supporters take victory for granted and don't show up to vote.

"Donald Trump said he could still win, and he could if our people get complacent," Clinton communications director Jennifer Palmieri said.

The AP-GfK Poll of 1,546 adults, including 1,212 likely voters, was conducted online Oct. 20-24, using a sample drawn from GfK's probability-based KnowledgePanel, which is designed to be representative of the U.S. population. The margin of sampling error for all respondents is plus or minus 2.75 percentage points, and for likely voters is plus or minus 3.1 percentage points.

Respondents were first selected randomly using telephone or mail survey methods and later interviewed online. People selected for KnowledgePanel who didn't have access to the internet were provided access for free.

Online:

Poll results: <http://ap-gfkipoll.com>

Associated Press writers Hope Yen, Nicholas Riccardi, Thomas Beaumont and Chad Day contributed to this report.

Follow Julie Pace and Emily Swanson on Twitter at: <http://twitter.com/jpaceDC> and http://twitter.com/EL_Swan

Mass protest in Venezuela demanding end of 'dictatorship'

By JOSHUA GOODMAN and HANNAH DREIER, Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Anti-government protesters jammed the streets of Venezuela's capital on Wednesday on the heels of a decision by congress to open a political trial against President Nicolas Maduro, whose allies have blocked moves for a recall election.

Tens of thousands of demonstrators shut down Caracas' main highway, and schools and shops were closed as protesters occupied other key points around the city to demand the ouster of Maduro, who many Venezuelans blame for triple-digit inflation and shortages of food, medicines and other basic goods.

In other major cities protesters clashed with police in what opposition leaders were calling "the takeover of Venezuela."

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"Maduro has shown how scared he is that the people will express themselves," opposition leader Henrique Capriles said.

The protests come after electoral authorities blocked a recall campaign against the deeply unpopular president last week. The faceoff escalated on Tuesday when the opposition-led legislature voted to put Maduro on trial, accusing him of effectively staging a coup.

Opposition legislators argued that Venezuela's leader has effectively abandoned the presidency by neglecting his job. Several also questioned whether he was a dual Colombian national and therefore ineligible to hold Venezuela's highest office — an old, unproven claim.

Government supporters staged a much smaller rally attended by Maduro downtown.

Late Wednesday, officials said that a police officer was shot and killed, and two others injured, on the Pan-American Highway southwest of Caracas. The circumstances of the shootings were unclear.

Miguel Mederico, the chief of press for police in Miranda state, said the officer was "shot in the abdomen" and died in a nearby clinic. He said two other police officers were injured in the "attack" carried out by unidentified gunmen who opened fire from nearby businesses. He said that two suspects have been detained.

But Venezuela Interior minister Nestor Reverol said the police officer died "trying to disperse" an opposition protest.

Nationwide at least 140 people were detained by police, according to the Foro Penal human rights group.

Opposition leaders ended Wednesday's national day of protest with call for a general strike on Friday. They also threatened to march on the presidential palace in the heart of the city on Nov. 3 if the government doesn't reverse its decision to block the recall effort.

The opposition has not been allowed to protest in front of the presidential palace since a massive march there helped precipitate a short-lived coup against former President Hugo Chavez in 2002.

Police fired tear gas and clashes with police in provincial capitals that left several wounded. In the border state of Tachira, the windows of the heavily-guarded regional electoral office were broken and anti-government slogans spray-painted on the entrance. In a video widely circulating on social media, a young man shouted in the face of soldier in riot gear maintaining a line against a crowd of masked protester.

"I'm going hungry! If you're going to shoot me because I'm hungry, shoot me," the protester said.

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Victoria Rodriguez, 18, said she hopes to cast her first vote for the campaign to recall Maduro. A recent high school graduate, she said she feels like she's living in an emptying country; 15 of her 25 classmates have already left since graduating in July.

She said she is frustrated that opposition leaders haven't called for more dramatic action, like sleeping on the highway overnight or attempting to paralyze the capital for days at a time.

"People are tired of going to the streets and then going home," she said. "The opposition is letting the streets go cold. They are giving the government too much time to maneuver."

Congress was expected to take up the issue of Maduro's responsibility for the country's worsening political and economic crisis Thursday. The result of that debate is unlikely to have much impact, however.

Unlike other countries in Latin America such as Brazil, where Dilma Rousseff was removed from the presidency in August, Venezuela's National Assembly can't impeach the president. That power lies with the Supreme Court, which has never voted against Maduro.

Even as tempers flare, the government and opposition have agreed on an attempt at dialogue to defuse the crisis.

Talks sponsored by the Vatican and other South American governments are set to begin Sunday in the Caribbean island of Margarita. Maduro, who met with Pope Francis privately at the Vatican on Monday, said he will travel to Margarita to personally launch the talks.

But the two sides have tried dialogue during previous crises, and the opposition has scant hope for a breakthrough. Although Venezuelans overwhelmingly blame Maduro for their economic woes the ruling

party is in firm control of institutions like the military and has shown no interest in yielding to the opposition.

AP Writer Luz Dary Depablos contributed to this report from San Cristobal, Venezuela

Trump: I'll run America like my business. Clinton: Let's not

By LISA LERER and JILL COLVIN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — His presidential dreams increasingly in question, Donald Trump pushed his business empire to the center of his political campaign Wednesday. Taking a break from battleground states, he made the case at his newest hotel that all Americans should look to his corporate record for evidence of how well he'd run the country.

"Under budget and ahead of schedule. So important. We don't hear those words so often, but you will," said Trump, linking the hotel redevelopment — just blocks from the White House — to his promised performance as president. "Today is a metaphor for what we can accomplish for this country."

Hillary Clinton agreed, but not the way he meant it. She used campaign events in Florida to attack the GOP nominee for having "stiffed American workers," saying he built his empire with Chinese-manufactured steel, overseas products and labor from immigrants in the country illegally.

"Donald Trump is the poster boy for everything wrong with our economy," she told several thousand supporters in Tampa, Florida. "He refuses to pay workers and contractors."

Trump's political aspirations have long been deeply intertwined with promoting his corporate goals. He announced his campaign in the gilded lobby of Trump Tower in Manhattan and has held dozens of campaign events at his own properties. His remarks at his new Washington hotel, which has struggled to fill rooms amid the controversy surrounding his presidential bid, followed a visit Tuesday to his Doral golf course outside Miami.

Though the GOP nominee focused his remarks on his political message, the event was heavy with marketing, too. Standing under glittering chandeliers, top company executives, including his daughter, touted the hotel. And after his brief speech, Trump and his family headed to the hotel's grand lobby where they cut a wide red ribbon with golden scissors before he flew to North Carolina for what his campaign billed as an urban policy speech.

In Charlotte, Trump unveiled what he billed a "New Deal for black America" in front of a mostly white crowd. Trump, who has struggled to earn the support of minority voters, bemoaned that "too many African-Americans have been left behind" and unveiled a handful of new proposals aimed at revitalizing impoverished urban areas.

They included new tax incentives for inner cities, new micro-loans for African-Americans to start companies and hire workers and a plan to reinvest money from suspended refugee programs in inner cities.

He also wants cities to be able to seek federal disaster designations to help them rebuild infrastructure, demolish abandoned buildings and invest in law enforcement.

As Trump cut the ribbon, Clinton was slamming his business practices in Florida, a state he must win to have any chance on Nov. 8. In Tampa, she was introduced by restaurateur Jose Andres, a naturalized U.S. citizen who pulled out of the Washington hotel to protest Trump's anti-immigrant rhetoric. Trump and Andres are currently locked in litigation over the deal.

Trump's unusual travel schedule, coming amid signs that the controversy surrounding his campaign has hurt his corporate brand, raises questions about whether the GOP nominee has begun to turn some of his focus to postelection plans.

Rooms at the overhauled \$212 million hotel that bears his name at Washington's Old Post Office Pavilion have been heavily discounted and smartphone data suggest fewer people are visiting his properties compared to rival venues nearby. A new Facebook live show produced by his campaign has heightened speculation that he may try and offset any losses with advertising revenue from a new a media network — a plan he denies.

Trump supporters defended his strategy, blasting critics for not making as big a deal of Clinton's decision to attend an Adele concert Tuesday night. Trump took a break from campaigning to see the singer

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perform during the GOP primaries.

"I can't take one hour off to cut a ribbon at one of the great hotels of the world? I mean, I think I'm entitled to it," he said, in an interview with ABC News. He was more defensive in a CNN interview in which he called questions about his time away from swing state campaigning "insulting" and "rude."

Clinton told reporters: "I was struck today that Donald Trump was paying more attention to his business than to the campaign. That's his choice but we're going to keep working really hard to reach as many voters as possible."

Still, Clinton has turned some of her focus to what happens after Nov. 8, though her efforts assume she wins. Deep in transition planning, she's also begun expanding the scope of her campaign to help down-ballot Democrats — her party sees an opportunity to win control of the Senate and reduce its deficit in the House — and retooling her campaign message to emphasize unifying the country after a divisive race.

Wednesday was the candidate's 69th birthday, a milestone she started celebrating a day early on Univision's entertainment news show "El Gordo y La Flaca," where she was feted with a bottle of tequila and a large cake featuring her face. In her appearance on "The Breakfast Club," popular with African-American voters, singer Stevie Wonder serenaded the woman he called "Madam President Clinton."

Trump, meanwhile, dispatched his running mate, Mike Pence, to play political defense in Utah — a state that hasn't backed a Democrat for president in 52 years.

Besides Utah, Pence also was stopping in the swing states of Nevada and Colorado before heading Thursday to solidly Republican Nebraska.

Trump, who also held a rally in the city of Kinston, continued to insist he knows more than the nation's military leaders, especially when it comes to the fight against Islamic State militants in the city of Mosul.

"You can tell your military expert that I'll sit down and I'll teach him a couple of things," he said in an interview with ABC.

Associated Press writers Jonathan Lemire in Washington and Ken Thomas in Tampa, Florida, contributed.

Philippine leader affirms US alliance but wants troops out

By MARI YAMAGUCHI, Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — The leaders of Japan and the Philippines agreed to cooperate in promoting regional peace and stability and acknowledged the importance of their alliances with the U.S., after the tough-talking Rodrigo Duterte said he wants his country to be free of visiting American troops possibly within two years.

In a news conference, Duterte, after his first round of talks with Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Wednesday, said he expected Japan to continue being an important part of maritime security in the region, including the South China Sea, where Manila and Beijing have overlapping claims.

In a statement, the two sides acknowledged the importance of "their network of friendship and alliances," particularly one between them. Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Hagiuda told reporters that their alliances with the U.S. were recognized, though not in writing.

Duterte, in his second round of talks only among close aides, reassured Abe that he has no intention to sever diplomatic ties with the U.S., Hagiuda said.

Since Duterte took office in June, Manila's relationship with Washington has quickly become strained.

Japan is a staunch U.S. ally and hosts 50,000 American troops, while Duterte has repeatedly spoken of distancing his country from Washington, often in crude terms.

The presence of U.S. troops in five Philippine military camps was established under a security deal signed under Duterte's predecessor as a counter to China's growing military assertiveness in the region.

Earlier Wednesday, Duterte said that he wants his country to be free of foreign troops, possibly within two years. "I want them out," he said.

"I want to be friends to China," he told an audience of businesspeople in Tokyo. "I do not need the arms. I do not want missiles established in my country. I do not need to have the airports to host the bombers."

As president, Duterte has reached out to Beijing while criticizing U.S. foreign policy. His approach has

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caused consternation in both the U.S. and Japan.

Still, Abe welcomed Duterte's recent efforts to improve ties with China.

"The South China Sea issue is directly linked to the region's peace and stability and a matter of interest for the entire international society," he said. "In that regard, Japan welcomes the effort of President Duterte visiting China and endeavoring to improve the Philippine-China relations."

Duterte has announced canceling planned joint military exercises with the United States, and preparatory meetings for next year's joint combat exercises between American and Filipino forces in the Philippines have been shrouded in uncertainty.

Explaining his policy, Philippine Foreign Minister Perfecto Yasay, also in Tokyo, said Duterte respects all bilateral security agreements with the U.S. and that he has no intention to renege or breach them, but the exercises are not helpful in fostering Manila's friendly relations with Beijing.

"It is in this context that we will not be undertaking (them) during (Duterte's) administration especially so that we are trying to resolve this disputes with China in a peaceful manner," Yasay told a separate news conference.

Officials declined to provide details of their second round of talks, in which Abe was expected to ask Duterte specifically about his foreign policy. Their joint statement focused largely on Japan's contribution to Philippine maritime security and other projects totaling a 21 billion yen (\$210 million) loan.

Duterte is on a three-day visit to Japan. After two rounds of talks with Abe, he is attending a banquet hosted by the Japanese leader. On Thursday, he is set to meet Emperor Akihito.

Associated Press videojournalist Emily Wang in Tokyo and writer Jim Gomez in Manila, the Philippines, contributed to this report.

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Thursday, Oct. 27, the 301st day of 2016. There are 65 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 27, 1787, the first of the Federalist Papers, a series of essays calling for ratification of the United States Constitution, was published.

On this date:

In 1858, the 26th president of the United States, Theodore Roosevelt, was born in New York City.

In 1880, Theodore Roosevelt married his first wife, Alice Lee.

In 1886 (New Style date), the musical fantasy "A Night on Bald Mountain," written by Modest Mussorgsky (MOH'-dest muh-SAWRG'-skee) and revised after his death by Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov, was performed in St. Petersburg, Russia.

In 1922, the first annual celebration of Navy Day took place.

In 1938, Du Pont announced a name for its new synthetic yarn: "nylon."

In 1941, the Chicago Daily Tribune dismissed the possibility of war with Japan, editorializing, "She cannot attack us. That is a military impossibility. Even our base at Hawaii is beyond the effective striking power of her fleet."

In 1954, U.S. Air Force Col. Benjamin O. Davis Jr. was promoted to brigadier general, the first black officer to achieve that rank in the USAF. Walt Disney's first television program, titled "Disneyland" after the yet-to-be completed theme park, premiered on ABC.

In 1962, during the Cuban Missile Crisis, a U-2 reconnaissance aircraft was shot down while flying over Cuba, killing the pilot, U.S. Air Force Maj. Rudolf Anderson Jr.

In 1978, Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin (men-AH'-kem BAY'-gihn) were named winners of the Nobel Peace Prize for their progress toward achieving a Middle East accord.

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In 1986, the New York Mets won the World Series, coming from behind to defeat the Boston Red Sox, 8-5, in game 7 played at Shea Stadium.

In 1995, a sniper killed one soldier and wounded 18 others at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. (Paratrooper William J. Kreutzer was convicted in the shootings, and condemned to death; the sentence was later commuted to life in prison.)

In 2004, the Boston Red Sox won their first World Series since 1918, sweeping the St. Louis Cardinals in Game 4, 3-0.

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush said the United States did not torture prisoners, trying to calm a controversy created when Vice President Dick Cheney embraced the suggestion that a "dunk in water" might be useful to get terrorist suspects to talk, a comment the White House said did not refer to "water boarding." The St. Louis Cardinals beat the Detroit Tigers 4-2 in Game 5 to wrap up their first World Series title in nearly a quarter-century and 10th overall. Former major league pitcher Joe Niekro, 61, died at a hospital in Tampa, Florida.

Five years ago: European leaders clinched a deal they hoped would mark a turning point in their two-year debt crisis, agreeing to have banks take bigger losses on Greece's debts and to boost the region's weapons against market turmoil. The St. Louis Cardinals stunned the Texas Rangers 10-9 with an 11th inning homer by David Freese, forcing the World Series to a seventh game.

One year ago: President Barack Obama, addressing the International Association of Chiefs of Police in Chicago, defended officers who had come under intense scrutiny amid a breakdown in relations between law enforcement and minority communities, and said police couldn't be expected to contain problems that society refuses to solve. Walgreens confirmed it was buying rival pharmacy chain Rite Aid for about \$9.41 billion in cash. Actress Betsy Drake, 92, died in London. The Kansas City Royals won the first game of the World Series, defeating the New York Mets 5-4 in 14 innings.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Nanette Fabray is 96. Actor-comedian John Cleese is 77. Author Maxine Hong Kingston is 76. Country singer Lee Greenwood is 74. Producer-director Ivan Reitman is 70. Country singer-musician Jack Daniels is 67. Rock musician Garry Tallent (Bruce Springsteen & the E Street Band) is 67. Author Fran Lebowitz is 66. Rock musician K.K. Downing is 65. TV personality Jayne Kennedy is 65. Actor-director Roberto Benigni is 64. Actor Peter Firth is 63. Actor Robert Picardo is 63. World Golf Hall of Famer Patty Sheehan is 60. Singer Simon Le Bon is 58. Country musician Jerry Dale McFadden (The Mavericks) is 52. Internet news editor Matt Drudge is 50. Rock musician Jason Finn (Presidents of the United States of America) is 49. Actor Sean Holland is 48. Actor Channon Roe is 47. Actress Sheeri Rappaport is 39. Actor David Walton is 38. Violinist Vanessa-Mae is 38. Actress-singer Kelly Osbourne is 32. Actress Christine Evangelista is 30. Actor Bryan Craig (TV: "General Hospital") is 25. Actor Troy Gentile is 23.

Thought for Today: "In any moment of decision, the best thing you can do is the right thing, the next best thing is the wrong thing, and the worst thing you can do is nothing." — Theodore Roosevelt, American president (1858-1919).