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**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**WASHINGTON -- In the race for president of the United States, everyone's vote counts. But some count more than others.

That fact of American democracy is never more obvious on Election Day, when the president and vice president are elected state-by-state under systems that change from county-by-county or even precinct-by-precinct.

By the end of the night, more than 100 million individual voting decisions will be distilled into the only votes that count: the 538 votes in the Electoral College. The first candidate to 270 wins.

Beyond the red states and blue states, voters will be segmented into bellwether counties, in-person voters and absentee ballots, and dozens of demographic groups: men and women, the more and less educated, Baby Boomers and Millennials, Catholics and Jews, African-Americans and Hispanics, union and non-union households.

For savvy election watchers, understanding those differences can send signals about who's winning and whose losing even before the last vote is cast. The Associated Press and the television networks have traditionally used exit polling to help quickly "call" states for one side or another. But as more states allow greater access to early voting, it's also possible for significant numbers of votes -- more than half in some states -- to be counted and reported immediately after the polls close.

With the results in most states seemingly predetermined, the race comes down to a handful of "swing states" -- places like Florida, North Carolina, Ohio and Nevada. Most analysts agree that Donald Trump needs more of those states than Hillary Clinton does.

But the president isn't the only federal office on the ballot. The 2010 Tea Party surge swept in a class of Republican senators now defending their seats. Twenty-four of the 34 Senate seats are being defended by Republicans, and Democrats only need to win five of them to regain control of the Senate -- or just four if Democratic vice presidential nominee Tim Kaine is presiding.

Here's a guide to watching the returns:

5 a. m. ET

Every state has different poll opening and closing times, but in Vermont the polls can open as early as 5 a. m. And almost as soon as poll workers show up, there will almost certainly be problems reported.

Locked polling places. Long lines. Power outages. Ballot shortages. Those are all problems that can bedevil election officials even in a less contentious election year. Social media and growing distrust of the election system will shine a brighter light on them this year.

And given the acrimony of 2016 -- and Trump's charges that the election will be "rigged" -- both sides will be carefully watching to make sure elections are conducted peacefully and fairly.

6 p. m. ET

Polls close in most of Indiana and Kentucky.

Senate race to watch: Democratic hopes to win the Senate could depend on a comeback by Democratic former senator Evan Bayh, scion of an Indiana political family. Bayh has been in a tight race with GOP Rep. Todd Young for the seat now occupied by retiring Sen. Dan Coats.

7 p. m. ET

Polls close in Georgia, South Carolina, Vermont and Virginia, most of Florida, and the western parts of Indiana and Kentucky.

Battlegrounds: Florida is one of the first states with polls to close, and -- if recent elections are any guide -- will be one of the last states to be called. That means election watchers could have one eye on the Sunshine State for much of the night.

But early voting could give some early indications: As of Sunday, 6. 2 million voters had already cast ballots. That's nearly half the number of registered voters, and three-quarters of the number voting in 2012. Registered Democrats had cast 32,528 more votes than registered Republicans, but that gap is narrower than it was in 2012.

Hillsborough County, home of Tampa, has the ethnic and economic diversity to make it a near-perfect microcosm, with a mix of longtime residents and snowbirds from other swing states like Michigan and Ohio. "That diversity in geography and diversity in demographics makes Hillsborough County such a purple county," said Ana Cruz, the former head of the Florida Democratic Party. Hillsborough is "a microcosm of what this battleground state of Florida represents. "

By all rights, Georgia shouldn't be in play; it hasn't gone Democratic since Bill Clinton in 1992. Trump has a healthy lead in recent polls, so a Clinton win -- or even a close race -- could signal trouble for Trump later on. One reason: It would likely signal a motivated African-American turnout, which is going overwhelmingly for Clinton.

7:30 p. m. ET

Polls close in North Carolina, Ohio and West Virginia.

Battlegrounds: Ohio, Ohio, Ohio. It's not as important as it was a decade ago, but it's still more important to Trump as it is to Clinton. No Republican has won the White House without it. And on paper, it should be fertile ground for Trump's message: It has a high proportion of white voters without a college degree, and it's been buffeted by job losses caused by globalization.

Look to swing counties like Stark, Ross and Clark as bellwethers. Ottawa County, on Lake Erie, has predicted the national winner every year since 1964. But don't call the state until Cleveland vote comes in. Cuyahoga County often reports its votes late, and its high concentration of true-blue Democratic voters can cancel out Trump wins downstate.

"I always feel like the Republican generally leads in the middle portion of the night, and then we wait and see if what happens in Cuyahoga," said Kyle Kondik, author of The Bellwether: Why Ohio Picks the President.

North Carolina is enjoying -- if that's the right word -- its newfound status as a swing state. In 2008, President Obama was the first Democrat to win it since 1976, but he lost it to Republican Mitt Romney four years later. It's gotten plenty of attention from both campaigns -- and from Obama, who made three stops there in the last week of the campaign.

At the same time, the state has been roiled by debates on transgender bathrooms and voting rights.

The African-American turnout was key to Obama's 2008 victory and is crucial for Clinton as well. "If she doesn't have a decent showing by black voters, then it makes it that much harder to make the state flip to blue," said Mike Bitzer, a political scientist at Catawba College. Early voting is a good sign of whether the Clinton campaign has been successful in getting those voters to the polls; the first returns reported after the polls close could be revealing.

Senate race to watch: Democrat Deborah Ross, an American Civil Liberties Union lawyer, is challenging Republican Sen. Richard Burr in the Tar Heel State. Burr made national headlines in the final days with comments about putting a bull's-eye on Clinton and promising to block Supreme Court nominees for another four years.

8 p. m. ET

Polls close in Alabama, Connecticut, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Illinois, most of Kansas, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, most of Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania and Rhode Island, most of Texas, eastern Tennessee and the Florida panhandle.

Battlegrounds: Pennsylvania is so important to Democrats that Clinton decided to end her campaign there with a Philadelphia rally that brought her heaviest hitters -- the president and first lady -- back to the city where she was nominated. A big turnout in Pennsylvania is essential for her, but much of the attention will be in the suburban "collar counties": Bucks, Chester, Delaware and Montgomery. The moderate Republican voters there are usually a counterbalance to the urban Democrats, but this year could be different.

"In Donald Trump, you have a perfect storm of a candidate in terms of pressing buttons to sending white, college-educated voters, particularly women, in the other direction," said Ruy Teixeira, a fellow at the liberal Center for American Progress .

Part of Michigan's Upper Peninsula is on Central time, so polls there close an hour later. But networks could call the state earlier based on exit polls in the Eastern time zone. Turnout in Detroit's Wayne County will be a key indicator of Clinton's support among African-Americans, but a better bellwether might be Macomb County, just north of 8 Mile Road. It's historically been ground zero for Reagan Democrats and could indicate whether Trump's anti-trade, anti-**immigration**message swings enough union members to close the gap.

Maine is a curiosity, because it's one of two states (Nebraska is the other) that splits its electoral votes by congressional district -- giving Trump a chance to pick up a spare vote in Maine's 2nd district.

New Hampshire voters have seen these candidates up close more than anyone else, and Trump has surged in the polls there in recent weeks. A Trump win may not be decisive -- it has just four electoral votes -- but it could be a signal of whether Trump's rebound is for real.

Senate races to watch: In Missouri, GOP Sen. Roy Blunt faces a surprisingly strong challenger in Democratic Army veteran Jason Kander. In New Hampshire, Democratic Gov. Maggie Hassan is taking on GOP Sen. Kelly Ayotte in a race dominated by the candidates' relationship to the presidential candidates. And in Pennsylvania, Republican Sen. Pat Toomey is fending off a challenge from Katie McGinty, a former environmental protection official with close ties to Clinton and Obama.

8:30 p. m. ET

Polls close in Arkansas.

9 p. m. ET

Polls close in Arizona, Colorado, western Kansas, Louisiana, the western Upper Peninsula of Michigan, Minnesota, eastern Nebraska, New Mexico, New York, western South Dakota the western panhandle of Texas, Wisconsin and Wyoming.

Battlegrounds: In a normal election year, Arizona would be safely in the Republican column. The state has gone Democratic just once since 1948, and that was in the three-way race in 1996 when Reform Party candidate Ross Perot siphoned off Republican votes. While an Arizona Republic poll three weeks ago showed Clinton up by 5 percentage points, more recent polls have favored Trump.

But those poll results are based largely on models that show that Hispanic voters are historically underrepresented in voter turnout. And Democrats are hoping that Trump's anti-**immigration** rhetoric will drive Latinos to the polls. Exit polls will show whether that's happening.

Obama carried Colorado twice, moving it from purple to blue on most electoral maps, and Clinton leads in most recent polls. And its demographics work against Trump: It's younger, more educated and more Hispanic than the country at large.

But Trump visited the state Saturday night, and GOP officials say they've pulled ahead on mail-in votes submitted by Republican voters.

"I don't think people are talking about it today, but we're 1,700 votes ahead in an all mail-in state in Colorado today. It is a jump ball in Colorado," Republican National Committee Chairman Reince Priebus said on ABC's This Week.

That's a change from a week ago, when Trump visited the state and claimed there were "real problems with ballots being sent" and encouraged supporters to vote in person.

In New Mexico, Clinton has had a consistent lead in the polls, with the latest Albuquerque Journal poll showing her leading, 45% to 40%. So the most interesting thing to watch may be how well former New Mexico governor Gary Johnson does. The Libertarian candidate once hoped to play spoiler here, but his support has been cut to 11% from his high-water mark of 24% in September.

10 p. m. ET

Polls close in southern Idaho, Iowa, Montana, Nevada, eastern North Dakota, far eastern Oregon and Utah.

Battlegrounds: Once considered competitive, Iowa seems to be trending in Trump's direction. A Des Moines Register poll published Sunday showed him up by 7 percentage points.

"The bigger surprise on election night would be if he lost Iowa, not that he won it," said Amy Walter, national editor at the nonpartisan Cook Political Report. "Donald Trump can't afford to lose Iowa, and Hillary Clinton can. "

Like Colorado, Nevada is another state where the two main sources of predictive data -- polls and early votes -- are trending in opposite directions. Trump seems to have a slight lead in recent polls, but a surge of early ballots cast by registered Democrats would seem to favor Clinton.

Trump needs crossover and independent votes -- and big turnout by Republicans on Election Day -- to overcome a 40,000-ballot early-vote advantage by registered Democrats.

But Rep. Mark Amodei, R-Nev. , told a Trump rally in Reno on Saturday that the early voting numbers fail to take into account independent voters, who he said will break toward Trump on Tuesday. "Guess what, the history in Nevada is Election Day is elephant day. Election Day is independent day," he said.

Also closely watched will be the fate of Utah's six electoral votes, with recent polls showing insurgent conservative Evan McMullin within striking distance of Donald Trump. McMullin would be the first third-party candidate to win electoral votes since George Wallace in 1968 -- and those are electoral votes Trump needs.

Senate race to watch: The retirement of Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid leaves an open seat in Nevada. Hoping to fill it are Catherine Cortez Masto, the Democratic former state attorney general, and GOP Rep. Joe Heck.

11 p. m. ET

Polls close in California, Hawaii, northern Idaho, western North Dakota, most of Oregon and Washington.

12 midnight ET

Polls close in most of Alaska.

1 a. m. ET

Polls close in half the Aleutian Islands of Alaska.

Contributing: Joel Burgess of the Asheville Citizen-Times, Susan Page of USA TODAY, Alexandra Glorioso of the Naples Daily News, and Amy Bennett Williams of the Fort Myers News-Press, Jason Noble of the Des Moines Register, Seth Richardson of the Reno Gazette-Journal.

More election coverage from USA TODAY:

\* Plot Trump's or Clinton's path to 270 electoral votes

\* See the latest national and state presidential polling averages

\* Check out poll closing times in each state

\* Candidate info and ratings for all races

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**WASHINGTON -- Melania Trump was paid for 10 modeling jobs in the United States worth $20,056 that occurred in the seven weeks before she had legal permission to work in the country, according to detailed accounting ledgers, contracts and related documents from 20 years ago provided to The Associated Press.

The details of Mrs. Trump's early paid modeling work in the U. S. emerged in the final days of a bitter presidential campaign in which her husband, Donald Trump, has taken a hard line on **immigration** laws and those who violate them. Trump has proposed broader use of the government's E-verify system allowing employers to check whether job applicants are authorized to work. He has noted that federal law prohibits illegally paying **immigrants**.

Mrs. Trump, who received a green card in March 2001 and became a U. S. citizen in 2006, has always maintained that she arrived in the country legally and never violated the terms of her **immigration** status. During the presidential campaign, she has cited her story to defend her husband's hard line on **immigration**.

The wife of the GOP presidential nominee, who sometimes worked as a model under just her first name, has said through an attorney that she first came to the U. S. from Slovenia on Aug. 27, 1996, on a B1/B2 visitor visa and then obtained an H-1B work visa on Oct. 18, 1996.

The documents obtained by the AP show she was paid for 10 modeling assignments between Sept. 10 and Oct. 15, during a time when her visa allowed her generally to be in the U. S. and look for work but not perform paid work in the country. The documents examined by the AP indicate that the modeling assignments would have been outside the bounds of her visa.

It is highly unlikely that the discovery will affect the citizenship status of Mrs. Trump. The government can seek to revoke the U. S. citizenship of **immigrants** after the fact in cases when it determines a person willfully misrepresented or concealed facts relevant to his naturalization. But the government effectively does this in only the most egregious cases, such as instances involving terrorism or war crimes.

The disclosures about the payments come as Mrs. Trump takes on a more substantial role advocating for her husband's candidacy. She made her first speech in months Thursday, in which she spoke of her time working as a model in Europe and her decision to come to the U. S.

"As a young entrepreneur, I wanted to follow my dream to a place where freedom and opportunity were in abundance. So of course, I came here," she said. "Living and working in America was a true blessing, but I wanted something more. I wanted to be an American. "

The documents obtained by the AP included ledgers, other accounting documents and a management agreement signed by Mrs. Trump from Metropolitan International Management that covered parts of 1996 and 1997. The AP obtained the files this week after seeking copies since August from employees of the now-defunct modeling firm, after Mrs. Trump made comments earlier this summer that appeared inconsistent with U. S. **immigration** rules.

A New York **immigration** lawyer whom Mrs. Trump asked to review her **immigration** documents, Michael J. Wildes, also reviewed some of the ledgers at AP's request. Wildes said in a brief statement that "these documents, which have not been verified, do not reflect our records including corresponding passport stamps. " He did not elaborate or answer additional questions asking for clarification. Wilde appeared to be referring to Mrs. Trump's arrival in the United States on Aug. 27, 1996, one day after the ledgers list a charge for car service to pick up Mrs. Trump from the airport. Trump campaign spokeswoman Hope Hicks also did not answer additional written questions from the AP.

Since questions arose earlier this year, Mrs. Trump has declined to publicly release her **immigration** records. Wildes, the **immigration** lawyer, released a letter in September that laid out the details of what he said Mrs. Trump's **immigration** records show, including a seven-week window in which Mrs. Trump was in the U. S. before her work visa was issued.

During that seven-week period, the ledgers list modeling work for clients that included Fitness magazine and Bergdorf Goodman department store. The management agreement, which said it was not an employment agreement, included a handwritten date of Aug. 27, 1996. The top of the document said it was "made and entered into as of this 4th day of September 1996. "

Many of the documents were part of a legal dispute related to the dissolution of the firm in the late 1990s and found recently in storage. The accounting ledgers for the firm's models were listed on hundreds of pages of continuously fed paper that appeared yellowed with age. They were authenticated by a former employee who worked at the firm at the time. The employee spoke on condition of anonymity because this person feared retaliation and threats from Trump's presidential campaign.

Exhibit markings with the records were also consistent with documents filed in New York state court, including a deposition of one former partner that referred to the same exhibit number. The sworn testimony describing the exhibit's content matches the documents obtained by the AP.

A former partner, Paolo Zampolli, who previously told the AP that he recruited Mrs. Trump to come to the U. S. as a model, confirmed that the contract language was used by his firm and his signature appeared on the document. Mrs. Trump's signature on the contract resembled her signature on her marriage license recorded in 2005. Asked about the two dates on the document, Zampolli said he usually vacationed in Europe each August and likely arranged for the contract to be formally executed when he returned to New York after Labor Day, even though Mrs. Trump had signed it eight days earlier.

Zampolli previously told the AP that Mrs. Trump obtained a work visa before she modeled professionally in the United States. He said the ledgers for Mrs. Trump were consistent with printouts used by his firm at the time, but he would not personally vouch for them because he said money matters were handled by the company's chief financial officer, who has since died.

Zampolli said he did not recall Mrs. Trump working without legal permission. "Honestly, I don't know. It's like 20 years ago," he said. "The contract looks (like) a real one and the standard one. "

Foreigners are not allowed to use a visitor visa to work for pay in the U. S. for American companies. Doing so would violate the terms of that visa and could prohibit a foreigner from later changing his or her **immigration** status in the U. S. or bar the foreigner from the United States again without special permission to come back. The E-verify system started in 1997-- after Mrs. Trump came to the country-- and was dramatically expanded after 2007.

Some ledgers obtained by the AP identify Mrs. Trump by her professional name and detail her involvement with the modeling agency from July 18, 1996, through Sept. 26, 1997. Other documents from the same accounting ledgers identify Mrs. Trump as Melanija Knaus and list $20,526 in gross earnings for the period before she was granted her work visa on Oct. 18, 1996. The documents also show the modeling company paid for her rent, lent her money and paid for her pager.

Some ledgers were first made available to True. Ink, an online lifestyle publication, and then independently obtained and verified by the AP.

Metropolitan International Management managed the careers of about 65 women in 1996 and 1997, according to court records. It paid the women as independent contractors, collecting a 20 percent commission and deducting expenses. The ledger shows that the firm also deducted federal taxes from the models' gross earnings, including Mrs. Trump's.

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**Election Day could be doomsday -- or just another day -- for Wall Street.

With just days until the presidential election, Wall Street remains on high alert. Investors are in risk-watch mode thanks to a bitter campaign punctuated by narrowing polls, candidates with low likability ratings, and unexpected bombshells like claims of Donald Trump groping women and the FBI's ongoing investigation into Hillary Clinton's emails.

Here are three shocks that could rock markets:

A TRUMP WIN

It would be a big surprise, one few investors saw coming. Even Trump says if he pulls off the upset it would equate to "Brexit times 10," or way bigger than the shock waves the United Kingdom sent through markets in June when it voted to exit the European Union.

Stocks will likely sell off if Trump triumphs. Barclays says the Standard & Poor's 500 stock index has downside risk of 11% to 13% if the billionaire businessman wins. Declines could be as big as "10% to 15%," according to a paper by University of Michigan's Justin Wolfers, Dartmouth's Eric Zitzewitz and the National Bureau of Economic Research.

And don't rule out a bear market if Clinton loses, warns Don Luskin, chief investment officer at financial research firm TrendMacro. "If Trump wins ... stocks will drop at least 20% just like that," Luskin told USA TODAY. "Because markets hate to be surprised and hate it when the conventional wisdom is dead wrong. Just look at the reaction to Brexit. "

Why are investors so averse to Trump? Too many unknowns and too little political experience, says Thomas Block, Washington policy strategist at FundStrat Global Advisors.

"I don't see how investors can envision what his administration would look like," Block told USA TODAY. "Plus I don't see his harsh rhetoric and take-no-prisoners negotiating style working with strong-willed legislators. Relations with allies in Europe and Asia could seriously deteriorate, and China, with its large U. S. Treasuryholdings, would be very anxious. "

A DEMOCRATIC SWEEP

Financial pain would also likely be felt if Clinton takes the White House and Democrats retake control of the Senate and House of Representatives, although odds still favor the GOP holding the House. "A Democratic sweep is a tail risk," says Andy Laperriere, head of U. S. Policy Research for Cornerstone Macro.

An election hat trick would enable Democrats to take fuller control of the legislative process, making it easier for Clinton to push through her less business-friendly platform of higher taxes on the rich and investors, more regulation of businesses and spending programs.

Wall Street prefers political "gridlock" where legislative decisions related to trade, **immigration**, taxes, health care and regulation are made with input from both parties.

"A split chamber probably delivers the gridlock the market prefers," says Mark Luschini, chief investment strategist for Janney. POST-ELECTION VIOLENCE OR SCANDAL

Since World War II stocks have risen 2%, on average, from Election Day until year-end, thanks to the lifting of election uncertainty, according to CFRA, an independent stock and fund research firm.

But what happens if uncertainty doesn't lift once the votes are counted? Or if violence breaks out, as 51% of voters fear, according to a recent USA TODAY/Suffolk University poll? How would investors react if Clinton wins but her legal troubles related to use of a personal email server while secretary of State worsen and spark a post-election crisis. What if Trump wins and the more than six dozen pending lawsuits now open against him and his company are tried while he's president, or if his controversial policies on trade and **immigration** get fast-tracked, or his claims of a rigged election gain traction?

"Consumer confidence often increases after a presidential election, but perhaps not this time since both candidate are viewed as so flawed and unlikable," says Gregory Valliere, chief strategist at Horizon Investments. "If Trump (loses and) proclaims the election is rigged, perhaps a quarter of all Americans may agree with him. That's hardly a prescription for higher consumer confidence. "

Violence in the aftermath of the election, if it occurs, is viewed as a short-term hiccup.

"If it (violence) was widespread and had economic consequences, such as consumers staying home and not spending, it could (impact markets)," says Luschini.

Adds Luskin: "Markets are not typically rattled by violence in the streets. Remember 1968 -- riots, assassinations, shootings all over the world -- stocks just went higher and higher, through it all. "

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**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**KHAZAR, Iraq -- Word that the Iraqi army is nearing Mosul gave hope to traumatized **refugees** still covered in dust from their recent flight from the battle against the Islamic State militants.

"We are proud of the Iraqi army because they saved us," said Abu Ali, 52, from Bazwaya, a town about 10 miles east of central Mosul that government troops retook Monday from the Islamic State. "We are not afraid of them (government troops). We are afraid of the Islamic State. "

Ali was among the 1,400 people -- mostly Arab Sunni Muslims and members of the Shabaak sect of Islam -- who arrived the past few days in a camp in Khazar, 25 miles north of Mosul. A week ago, the camp was still under construction. It's now prepared to hold 30,000 people.

The final days in Bazwaya were tense and chaotic, Ali said. The Islamic State had forbidden a host of activities under the radical group's ultra-orthodox interpretation of religion -- even more so than earlier, he noted. And as Iraqi forces approached, the militants turned the town into a shooting gallery.

"There were much more controls," Alì said. "We couldn't go out, and if you went out, there were snipers everywhere. You could risk death even crossing the road to go to your uncle's house. "

He had one request for Iraqi soldiers as they occupy Bazwaya, before heading from the eastern suburb to retake Mosul, Iraq's second-largest city. "I want to ask the government to protect our houses," he said.

**Refugees** at the camp like Amina Amira, 35, said she was thankful to have escaped the clutches of the Islamic State. But she and many others also said they are scared about what might happen as the Iraqi army took the fight into Mosul.

Islamic State militants are reportedly using local residents as human shields, setting land mines and improvised explosive devices on the streets of Mosul. The militants are also preparing to ignite oil trenches to stymie Iraqi forces advancing with the help of airstrikes by the U. S. -led coalition, according to aid groups, the Iraqi military and the United Nations.

"I'm afraid," Amira said. "We still have our relatives under (Islamic State) control. "

The camp gave Anie Haswak, 19, a respite from the Islamic State's reign of terror. She moved from Mosul to Bazwaya a month ago after her wedding.

Since both towns were under the control of the militants, she could move freely, she said. But she and her husband had been growing despondent about their future after they have children. She saw how her nieces, nephews and younger cousins were growing up under the Islamic State.

"We didn't prepare our kids to go to school or the youth to go to university," she said. "It's a generation lost. "

In Mosul, residents said they are now feeling the same pressures and are trying to get out.

"I am very concerned," said Abu Heba, a Mosul resident reached by phone. "I am afraid my family will get hurt. "

"We tried to flee, and we were prevented by (the Islamic State)" he added. "I have kids. I don't want them to be caught under bombardment. "

Mosul residents had already stocked up on bread, water and other supplies in the weeks leading up to the offensive, which began Oct. 17. Now, few if any shops are open.

Islamic State fighters have erected roadblocks using concrete barriers to keep residents from leaving the city. Abu Nabeel, who lives in Mosul's Al Baladiyat neighborhood, said keeping civilians in the city as "a huge human shield" would also make it harder for the Iraqi troops and their American allies to wage their assault on the militants.

"We are very happy to get rid of (the Islamic State), but at the same time very worried of the coming days," Nabeel said. "We will be in the middle of a heavy fight. "

Al Shamary reported from Baghdad.

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**One of the country's fastest growing cities, Charlotte, N. C. 's dining scene packs a big punch when it comes to diversity and culture. In recent years, big players like Bank of America Corporate Center, Johnson & Wales University and the NFL's Carolina Panthers moved in, paving the path for an exciting new culinary scene.

Nicknamed the Queen City after Queen Charlotte, wife of the English King George III, Charlotte offers everything from fine dining to true farm to table, and of course, traditional southern cuisine. With pocket neighborhoods like artsy NoDa (North Davidson), eclectic Dilworth and bustling Uptown (also known as Charlotte City Center) it's easy to see why Charlotte is becoming an epicurean's dream. Not to mention, the city has a booming brewery scene that rivals any other beer destination around the country.

Historian Tom Hanchett arrived in Charlotte in the 1980s when the food scene was "distinctly unexciting" with mostly meat and three-style restaurants (meaning one meat choice with three sides). Now, there are so many options to choose from, including a bounty of Latin American spots. "Charlotte has grown into a veritable buffet of international choices," he says. "Latin[ American] food led the way. "

Nowadays, you can find everything from authentic Venezuelan arepas to Mexican tamales in "salad bowl suburbs" throughout the city, as Hanchett coined them. "As **immigrants** have arrived in large numbers since the 1990s, they have not settled in distinct neighborhoods like the Little Italys and Chinatowns of older America. "

Charlotte is also home to noteworthy chefs like Kindred's Joe Kindred, Heirloom's Clark Barlowe and The Asbury's Matthew Krenz. This inspiring trio of North Carolina natives is shaping the dining scene in a very exciting way while working closely with local farmers and purveyors to create a sense of community surrounding food.

"We have a dynamic group of chefs, artisans and farmers working together to craft a food community where we work towards quality, not quantity," relays Krenz. "The Charlotte community is really starting to embrace a more diverse food scene and a more well-rounded food community. Our guests at The Asbury come from so many backgrounds -- bankers, business travelers, tech entrepreneurs, artists, performers, locals and **immigrants** from around the world. "

At Heirloom, Barlowe sources everything (pottery included) from North Carolina, making it a true farm-to-table dining spot. "When I was in school here in 2005, we had chefs like Tim Groody, Bruce Moffett, and Greg Zanitsch, among others, who paved the way for what we are doing now," he says. "It was a corporate dining town then. You can still find that now, but if you had asked me at the time if I thought the concept of Heirloom would be successful, I would have undoubtedly said no. Fast forward nine years and we are proving that a restaurant that focuses on community above all else, not only has a place but can be successful as well. "

Kindred, led by husband and wife team Joe and Katy Kindred, put Charlotte on every foodie's radar when it was ranked one of America's Best New Restaurants in 2015 by Bon Appetit. "Being a chef right now in Charlotte and its surrounding areas is so cool because so many awesome new places and chefs are moving to our area or just working up and taking over as chefs at respective restaurants around town and creating delicious food," chef Joe Kindred says.

The dining pairs with Charlotte's renowned craft brewery scene that's giving beer-centric cities like Asheville, N. C. a run for their money. From German-style beers at The Old Mecklenburg Brewery to Wild Ales at Lenny Boy Brewing Co. , there are enough options to keep you busy for a few days.

Craft cocktails are taking Charlotte by storm thanks to Bob Peters, head mixologist of The Punch Room at The Ritz-Carlton, Charlotte. "There are brand new incredibly talented craft distillers and craft brewers popping up every month," Peters says, who recently approached Lenny Boy Brewing Co. to make an exclusive ginger beer for use in his Boiler Mule cocktail. "It is a very exciting time to be in the beverage industry here in North Carolina. "

From breweries and brunch hot spots to authentically local dining experiences and craft cocktail bars, the Queen City definitely has a lot to offer. No matter what neighborhood you choose to explore, expect your palate to be wowed. Browse the gallery above for a glimpse into Charlotte's culinary world.

Plus, taste more of North Carolina in Asheville below.

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**Two first ladies walk into a rally . . .

Michelle Obama is the Clinton campaign's "not-so-secret weapon. " With approval ratings higher than the president's -- and blowing away both presidential candidates' -- Michelle Obama can fill the Hillary Clinton gaps that critics point to most: trustworthiness and likability. Michelle Obama can get emotional about Donald Trump's treatment of women. She can say things Clinton couldn't, like, "When they go low, we go high" -- a line from her Democratic National Convention speech that's become a campaign catchphrase, and which she repeated to cheers Thursday in her first appearance with Clinton in North Carolina. Things are less cheery for Clinton's other surrogate: Bill. The latest WikiLeaks dump revealed a memo from his former aide detailing how some Clinton Foundation donors also paid him to speak and provide advice. Trump mentioned the report in a rally in Ohio on Thursday. Earlier, an interview aired in which Trump softened on his threat to sue the women accusing him of sexual misconduct. Where he's not softening: calling the election "rigged. " Former Illinois congressman Joe Walsh tweeted: "If Trump loses, I'm grabbing my musket. " He says he was encouraging civil disobedience. The Democrats, for their part, have filed suit against Republicans to prevent "voter intimidation. " Twelve days to go.

Gone in 6 seconds

RIP Vine. The app that let people create and share six-second videos, will be shut down in the coming months. Twitter, which owns the platform, says existing Vines will remain online. We say if you have a micro video you can't live without, you should probably save it elsewhere. Thursday was rough for Twitter, which also announced it's laying off 9% of its workers. Critics say Twitter lacks the personal, emotional connection of a social media platform like Facebook, which may be why it introduced features like live-streaming Thursday Night Football to attract users. Meanwhile, hate speech on the platform has made Twitter less attractive to companies that could buy it, like Disney or Salesforce. Womp womp. In happier tech news: Apple unveiled a new MacBook that replaces the function keys with an interactive TouchBar:

Tell Grandma to hang up the phone

An 85-year-old woman received a phone call threatening her with arrest if she didn't pay for tax violations. So she paid $12,300. The violations didn't exist. The government official who called her didn't exist either. Of all the labels you could give that person, IRS worker or **immigration** agent aren't among them. But that's what these con-artists posed as, scamming at least 15,000 people out of $300 million dollars by threatening them with arrest, deportation and fines. Twenty of the 24 U. S. suspects in this vast transnational scheme have been arrested, but 32 others are believed to be living abroad. **Immigration** and Customs Enforcement's message: U. S. government officials don't make these types of phone calls. Warn your grandparents.

It's the end of the world as we know it

Wildlife populations around the world have declined 58% between 1970 and 2012, according to a report out Thursday. To blame: farming, fishing, poaching, wildlife trafficking, mining, climate change and pollution. In other words: humans. If we don't create less waste, eat fewer animals and use more sustainable energy, we could be looking at a sixth mass extinction, scientists warn. Among the most at risk: wolves and elephants.

Extra bites:

\* The Internet can't make up its mind: Is this Bill Murray or Tom Hanks? Shiny legs or white paint?

\* We all need this list: The 25 best companies for vacation and paid time off.

\* ICYMI: A pastor shared a heart-wrenching story of her own late-term abortion in response to Donald Trump's language in the last debate.

\* A burial slab believed to be that of Jesus Christ's has been discovered in Jerusalem.

Want the Short List delivered straight to your inbox? Sign up!

This is a compilation of stories from across USA TODAY

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**On the first anniversary of the start of his presidential campaign, Donald Trump spent much of the day in a setting he knows well -- a room full of high-priced lawyers battling out a civil lawsuit.

Trump paused his campaigning June 16 to answer questions under oath in one of his lawsuits against two celebrity chefs. He had sued Geoffrey Zakarian and José Andrés after they backed out of a restaurant deal in response to Trump's inflammatory statements about Mexican **immigrants**.

The two-hour deposition was at least the third time Trump had to leave the campaign trail to be deposed by attorneys in one of his organization's many lawsuits.

Just two weeks before Election Day, at least 75 of the 4,000-plus lawsuits involving Trump and his businesses remain open, according to an ongoing, nationwide analysis of state and federal court records by USA TODAY. Trump is running well behind Democrat Hillary Clinton in most polls -- about 5 points behind in the popular vote in RealClearPolitics' rolling average of national polls. But if Trump were to win, the number of unresolved cases is unprecedented for a presidential candidate, according to political scientists and historians.

Trump faces significant open litigation tied to his businesses: angry members at his Jupiter, Fla. golf course say they were cheated out of refunds on their dues and a former employee at the same club claims she was fired after reporting sexual harassment. There's a fraud case brought by Trump University students who say the mogul's company ripped them off for tens of thousands in tuition for a sham real estate course.

Trump is also defending lawsuits tied to his campaign. A disgruntled GOP political consultant sued for $4 million saying Trump defamed her. Another suit, a class action, says the campaign violated consumer protection laws by sending unsolicited text messages.

If elected, the open lawsuits will tag along with Trump. He would not be entitled to immunity, and could be required to give depositions or even testify in open court. That could chew up time and expose a litany of uncomfortable private and business dealings to the public.

One Trump case, over non-payment of tips to caterers at Trump SoHo Hotel in New York City, is scheduled to go to trial a week before Election Day.

Even in the waning days of the campaign, in a speech Saturday in Gettysburg outlining his first actions if he wins the White House, Trump threatened to sue all of the women who've accused him of unwanted sexual advances, saying all of them are lying.

The open cases raise questions about potential conflicts of interest that could become difficult for Trump to navigate.

For instance, could his judicial appointments be influenced by his own court cases? This summer, he attacked a federal judge who is presiding over the lawsuit against Trump University, saying District Judge Gonzalo Curiel is biased against Trump because the judge is of Mexican descent and Trump proposes a "great wall" along the Mexican border.

Another potential issue: Would lawyers, parties in cases and even judges seek to curry favor with a powerful individual in a way that might alter the outcome?

Norm Eisen, who founded the nonpartisan watchdog organization Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in 2003 and later was the top White House ethics lawyer for President Obama in 2009 and 2010, ticked off a series of potential conflicts.

The lawsuits against Trump University could raise questions about who Trump would appoint as Education secretary, Eisen said. "Somebody with favor to for-profit colleges?"

Trump's development of the Old Post Office building in Washington is being overseen by the federal government, which leases the historic building to Trump, and lawsuits involving the development could involve government officials.

"Will he really put someone in charge that would testify against his business?" Eisen wonders.

"And the mother of all conflict could be the IRS audit," he said. "What if they suggest civil penalties, or even criminal proceedings?"

Alan Garten, general counsel for Trump and his business interests, downplayed the significance of the cases.

Garten said only about 30 significant cases are open. The others are run-of-the-mill cases involving one Trump holding or another, frivolous causes or suits destined to be dismissed. "The reality is we're an operating company. We'll treat all cases the same way if he's elected or not -- and the results shouldn't be different in the eyes of the law. "

Clinton has her own share of litigation heading toward Election Day. Media groups are suing her trying to get more emails from her private server. They've also argued for the release of deposition videos.

The email lawsuit is among about 30 open civil cases Clinton faces. Dozens will likely be tossed out because of immunity doctrines as she acted in her official role as secretary of State. In nearly all cases, Clinton is named solely in her government capacity, often among a laundry list of other public officials. In a small fraction, like with the email server, some argue she should be held accountable as a private individual.

Clinton's campaign staff did not respond to questions about the open cases.

USA TODAY Network reporters spent more than six months gathering court records in more than 4,000 lawsuits involving Trump and his companies. They traveled to courthouses, studied thousands of pages of records and contacted lawyers, litigants and witnesses across the country. For comparison, the newspaper also pieced together the record of Clinton's court cases.

The exclusive analysis found an unprecedented mountain of legal battles for a presidential candidate, ranging from skirmishes with pageant contestants to multimillion dollar real estate lawsuits. The cases offer clues to the leadership style the billionaire would bring to the White House.

The review shows that Trump frequently responds to even small disputes with overwhelming legal force, not hesitating to use his tremendous wealth and legal firepower against adversaries with limited resources.

He has repeatedly refused to pay people and small businesses for their work, forcing them to spend time and legal fees if they want to recover their losses.

At least 60 lawsuits -- plus hundreds of additional liens, judgments, and other government filings reviewed by reporters -- documented cases where people accused Trump and his businesses of failing to pay them what they were owed for their work. Among them: painters, glassmakers, real estate agents, bartenders and hourly workers at Trump resorts coast to coast. Even his own lawyers.

The review also shows Trump and his companies have been accused for years of mistreating women. In at least 20 separate lawsuits, plaintiffs accused Trump and managers at his companies of discriminating against women, ignoring sexual harassment complaints and even participating in the harassment themselves. Women in those disputes have testified they were fired for complaining.

Trump's companies have been engaged in battles over taxes almost every year from the 1980s until as recently as last spring, when New York had to take legal action to collect $8,578 in unpaid taxes on the Trump-owned company that owns the trademark Boeing 757 that jetted the mogul to campaign rallies across the country.

The review found that people who say something Trump doesn't like will frequently get threatened with a lawsuit. "I'll sue you" was a Trump mantra long before "Build a wall. " The analysis of lawsuits, however, showed that he rarely follows through with his threatened lawsuits over people's words and almost always loses when he does. The lone win was a lawsuit against Miss Pennsylvania -- over her claim on Facebook that Trump's Miss USA pageant was rigged.

If Trump is elected president, it won't change the way his lawsuits are handled.

His companies face open cases of sexual discrimination and fraud, unpaid bills and contract disputes. In any of the open cases, litigants would have the right to demand testimony from Trump or people close to him, some of whom could become senior White House aides.

Such legal action can -- and often does -- unlock private financial and other records that could then become public. Even if Trump broke no laws or committed no wrongdoing, that kind of inside information could be used by political opponents to try to embarrass him or weaken him politically.

Clinton could face similar challenges as litigation over her refusal to turn over emails from her time as secretary of State moves forward.

"It could pose a problem for both sides in the presidency," said Julian Zelizer, a history professor at Princeton University. "They could produce damaging information, and given the partisan environment, any kind of scandal or investigation could be used to stifle a president. "

Those kinds of tactics have impacted past presidencies.

President Grant was among the early commanders in chief beset by scandal. He was forced to testify under oath at the White House in a high-profile federal prosecution of an illegal whiskey running scheme that ensnared some of his closest political associates.

Grant's testimony helped get his top aide off the hook and further soiled the public perception of his administration. Today, he is widely considered one of the least effective presidents in U. S. history.

In more modern times, President Nixon's administration was ensnared by repeated legal woes, scandals, botched cover-ups and ultimately his resignation.

Bill Clinton faced legal issues tied to Whitewater, Paula Jones and ultimately White House intern Monica Lewinsky.

Clinton was forced to give a deposition in one sex-scandal case involving Jones and later faced an impeachment trial over his relations with Lewinsky at the White House. In the latter, Clinton became the first sitting president to testify before a grand jury investigating his own conduct, which became a years-long distraction.

Yet, no president had litigation in the volume of a potential President Trump.

"Because of the Supreme Court case related to Bill Clinton, there's no automatic shield for the president from civil action," said Samuel Issacharoff, a law professor at New York University. "If he were president and called to testify and hostilities break out in the Middle East a court would probably postpone -- but of course it's a major dislocation to be going through these civil trials while he's running an administration. "

Among the many Trump lawsuits, the most problematic could be the Trump University cases.

Former students from across the country have sued in two class actions, accusing the school of charging them up to $35,000 and lying about the value of the lessons they would receive.

New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman sued in 2013 and has since described Trump University as a "fraud" and a "scam. "

While the open cases are civil, some legal scholars raise the prospect that a court could ultimately find Trump University or even Trump personally liable for fraud. In the worst case, a finding that fraud took place -- even by a civil court -- could provide Congress with the grounds to consider impeachment proceedings.

"These claims are different in an important way than most of his other cases," said Christopher Peterson, a law professor at the University of Utah who's researched the Trump University cases. Even though the burden of proof would be lower in civil court to prove Trump liable for fraud or racketeering, Peterson said, "The evidence that you would use to prove those claims would be interchangeable. It's the same kind of claims that you would get the mob for in a concrete scam. "

At a minimum, if the cases go forward, additional testimony by instructors and students about predatory sales tactics would become public.

Trump's already been deposed about the university. He downplayed his role, but could be called to testify at a trial.

If that happens, Trump would become the first modern sitting president to do so in open court. Bill Clinton gave testimony to a grand jury investigating the Monica Lewinsky scandal in 1998.

For years Trump's legal team has successfully kept secret much of the financial information disclosed in his court cases.

The vast majority of settlement payments Trump has made to litigants is secret under non-disclosure agreements.

Trump's attorneys also regularly ask judges to seal records that come out during the cases, something that is often done for plaintiffs and defendants in civil cases.

If Trump is elected President, the already immense pressure to release records could escalate even further.

"You don't know what you don't know," said Katie Townsend, litigation director for the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, a plaintiff seeking to liberate some of the sealed records. "Either way these documents would be newsworthy, before or after the election. "

Already Trump's candidacy has prompted court battles to get records in his cases unsealed.

In September, a judge ruled against USA TODAY and The New York Times in an attempt to unseal court files from Trump's 1990 divorce from his first wife, Ivana.

District Court Judge Gonzalo Curiel ruled over the summer to keep private the video recording of depositions in the Trump University cases, partly for fear they would add to the political tint of the case and since transcripts are already available.

But in September, Trump attorneys lost battles to keep videotapes sealed in cases involving his Washington hotel and Jupiter, Fla. , golf club.

And a group of journalists are battling to unseal the settlement in a 1983 case tied to the destruction of Bonwit Tower in midtown Manhattan to make way for Trump Tower. The suit alleged undocumented Polish workers performed the work off-the-books. The settlement is still secret. A judge ruled against unsealing those records this summer, but the journalist group is appealing.

In June, in the days after the deadliest mass shooting in American history, as both presidential candidates and the rest of the nation were coming to grips with the terror attack on Orlando's Pulse nightclub, Trump was also being deposed in Washington in one of his two lawsuits against the chefs, Zakarian and Andrés.

The duo wanted no part of the eatery they'd planned to open in Trump's luxury hotel in the Old Post Office Building just down the street from the White House. Their reason: their reputations and their brand were badly damaged by associating with Trump after his comments a year earlier branding Mexican **immigrants** as rapists, murderers and criminals.

As they sought to establish the idea that such statements could be bad for any business, the chef's attorneys asked Trump about the fallout for his businesses from his incendiary comments. They pressed him about whether he thought his words might keep Hispanics from going to a restaurant in one of his hotels or to any of his other properties. Trump's response: The election and the attention he's getting for the words he's using are only going to be good for business.

"I'm running for office. I obviously have credibility because I now, as it turns out, became the Republican nominee running against, we have a total of 17 people that were mostly senators and governors, highly respected people," he said under oath.

After explaining the "very dishonest" media distorted his remarks about Mexican **immigrants**, he added: "I think, you know, most people think I'm right. "

His booming popularity would only help the restaurant succeed, he testified. But, he conceded, the comments could turn some Hispanic patrons off.

"It is always possible," Trump said. "I just don't know. I mean, I don't know how to answer that question. It's possible. "

Contributing reporting to the Trump and the Law investigation: Nick Penzenstadler, John Kelly, Steve Reilly, Kevin McCoy, Susan Page and Kelly Jordan of USA TODAY; David McKay Wilson of The Journal News in Westchester County, N. Y. ; Karen Yi of the Asbury Park Press; and Greg Stanley of the Naples Daily News.

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**Long before Sen. Marco Rubio tried to nimbly explain his support for Donald Trump, the Florida Republican had to justify his decision to abandon an **immigration**reform bill he helped write.

And before declared his intent to run for re-election this summer after adamantly saying he would return to private life, he had to clarify his position on abortion during his presidential run.

Rubio's opponents say his seemingly shifting positions on key issues, his about-face on seeking re-election and his support for Trump -- someone he previously called a "con artist" -- smack of opportunism.

"It is the height of cynicism," President Obama said about Rubio's support of the GOP presidential nominee during a campaign rally last week in Miami Gardens. "That's the sign of somebody who will say anything, do anything, pretend to be anybody, just to get elected. "

Rubio has another explanation: pragmatism.

His pivot on issues like **immigration** reform -- where he adopted the House stance of "border security first" after the broader Senate plan fizzled -- reflect a desire to get something done based on political realities, not an abandonment of principle.

Once border security is addressed, Rubio says he hopes the issue of a pathway to citizenship for millions of undocumented **immigrants** can be addressed.

His decision to run for re-election despite open frustration with the job came after the Pulse nightclub shooting in Orlando and Rubio's realization that he wanted to serve "as a check and balance on the excesses of a president" no matter who won the White House.

And his support of Trump while still keeping his distance is simply a recognition that he's a better choice than Democrat Hillary Clinton despite his many flaws.

"This election is a disturbing choice between someone that I disagree with on many things and someone who I disagree with on virtually everything," he said during his debate last week at Central Florida University with Democratic opponent Patrick Murphy.

Rubio's support of Trump is likely to get a re-airing Wednesday night when he and Murphy meet for a second debate Wednesday night at Broward College in Davie.

Most polls show Rubio with a slight lead over Murphy in a race that will help determine whether Republicans maintain control of the Senate. Republicans hold 54 seats in the 100-seat Senate; if Democrats can take over four GOP seats, control of the chamber reverts to the vice president's deciding vote. Winning five GOP seats would hand the majority to the Democrats outright.

Rubio's tricky navigation of **immigration** and Trump are a reflection of the new Republican reality, said Matthew T. Corrigan, who chairs the political science and public administration department at the University of North Florida in Jacksonville.

"I don't think Republicans in many instances know who they are," he said. "You had this Tea Party movement. Now you have this Trump movement. And trying to stay with traditional Republicans but also trying to reach this populist fervor, it's really hard to do. And I think that explains a lot of what Rubio's been doing. "

But it doesn't always work. Republican Raul Garabito, 71, said he can't vote for Rubio in part because of the senator's support for Trump.

"You have to be sincere with yourself," said the retired auto mechanic from the Westchester section of Miami-Dade county. "That's what you have to project to the public. "

Rubio, a strong anti-abortion lawmaker has also shown flexibility in his position on this issue as it relates to exceptions for rape, incest and the life of the mother. He's voted for bills that have the exception and for some that don't.

Asked to explain that inconsistency after it came up during one of the GOP presidential primary debates last year, Rubio told NBC's Meet The Press that he "personally and deeply" believes all human life is worth protecting.

"That being said, I recognize that in order to have consensus on laws that limit the number of abortions, a lot of people want to see those exceptions," he said. "And that's why I've supported those laws in the past, as has every pro-life group in America. "

Al Cardenas, a former chairman of the state Republican Party who has known Rubio since he was a teenager, doesn't agree with Rubio on his support for Trump or his retreat on **immigration** reform.

But he still remains a big fan.

"You can't agree 100% with everybody all the time," Cardenas said. "I would say with Marco I certainly agree most of the time. I don't think he's a pragmatist in terms of his voting record. I think on **immigration** reform he just decided that wasn't going to fly and why take the flak. But he votes pretty much on principle. "

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**France on Monday began clearing out the gritty, squalid migrant camp in Calais known as "The Jungle" as **refugees** waited in long lines to be processed and bused to reception centers across the country.

The ramshackle camp, a symbol of Europe's struggle to control the crush of **refugees** fleeing war-torn Sudan, Afghanistan and other nations, is home to more than 6,000 asylum-seekers. France announced last month the camp will be emptied, and plans call for all **refugees** to be moved out within a few days.

Authorities moved out more than 2,000 people out Monday. More than 1,000 French police were on hand to keep the peace, and few problems were reported.

"We knew this morning that there would be a lot of people, and that's what's happening," regional Prefect Fabienne Buccio told Reuters news service. "There was no pushing. . . We had a particular concern for the minors, paid them particular attention, but it went well. "

Calais, a port city in northern France, has a ferry port and the Eurotunnel, and therefore is a primary pathway to Britain. Most camp residents hoped to cross the English Channel, lured by the U. K. 's relatively strong economy and a language with which many migrants are at least familiar.

Thousands have attempted to stow away on trucks headed for the Eurotunnel or hide on Eurotunnel trains. Few make it to the U. K. , however, and the vast majority of the **refugees** are bound for settlement in France.

Major Nurzei told The Guardian he was thrilled to be going to Normandy with eight friends from the same town in Afghanistan. Nurzei said he left his home country after Islamic State militants cut off the tip of his tongue and broke his fingers.

"U. K. is no good, too much of a headache," he said. "I like France. The U. K. take the children, but they don't want the adults. We can't go back to our country. "

Britain's anti-slavery commissioner Kevin Hyland has warned that many of the camp's estimated 1,200 unaccompanied children were turning to human traffickers to find a path to Britain. Hyland, along with the United Nations High Commissioner for **Refugees**, called for special considerations for many of the youths.

Daniel, an unaccompanied 16-year-old Eritrean, told the Associated Press he has been in Calais for eight months, trying daily to jump on a truck to England. Daniel was heading to the registration center for processing with his cousin, also an unaccompanied minor.

"I'm not happy because it's finished, The Jungle. I want to go to the U. K. ," he said. "I don't want France. "

Christian Salome, head of the charity Migrants' Hostel, said those leaving Monday had wanted to go.

"I'm much more concerned about later in the week when the only ones remaining are those who do not want to leave, who still want to reach England," he told Agence France-Presse.

The Save the Children organization called for a halt to the camp's demolotion, until every child is accounted for and found a safe place to stay.

"It is extremely welcome to see vulnerable children who have been trapped in Calais reaching safe haven in the UK over the last week," Carolyn Miles, President & CEO of Save the Children, said. "But as night falls in Calais, we are deeply concerned for the fate of hundreds of children who remain, and who do not know where they will sleep tonight and have no information on what tomorrow will bring. It is unacceptable that the French operation to demolish the camp, which has been planned for weeks, now risks putting vulnerable children at greater risk. "

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**Once upon a time, Donald Trump owned a bunch of casinos, so Las Vegas should be kind of home turf for him when he takes the stage at 9 p. m. ET Wednesday for the third and final presidential debate against Hillary Clinton. The debate is being hosted by the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, where student attendance is being limited to undergraduates with a C average or better and graduate students with a grade average above a B.

Here are some things we are watching for:

'Rigged'

It is clear that Trump's closing argument in this campaign is that if he loses, it is because the system is rigged against him. During the first debate, he noted there was a problem with his microphone; during the second debate, he said the moderators were aligned against him. "It's nice -- it's one on three. " Since the debate moderator this time is Chris Wallace of Fox News, it is less likely Trump will claim the moderator is biased against him. But he will no doubt bring back his charge that Clinton, the media, and even Republican leaders like Speaker Paul Ryan are ganging up to try deny him the White House.

(Just like to point out here that in August, I said in this Facebook Live video that we would be hearing "more and more and more about the 'rigged system' . . . that is becoming the theme of the 2016 election cycle. " Every now and then, I get one right. )

WikiLeaks

The steady stream of emails hacked from the account of Clinton campaign chairman John Podesta and released by WikiLeaks over the past few days have offered a host of embarrassments for Democrats. There were emails suggesting Clinton got a heads-up on questions being asked by CNN; emails showing staff disparaging Catholic voters; and emails suggesting that the government of Qatar -- which Clinton had accused of supporting terrorists -- was donating $1 million to the Clinton Foundation in honor of Bill Clinton's birthday.

Trump has claimed that the media has ignored these stories, and he does have a point. The stream of stories about Trump's alleged sexual misconduct with women has essentially drowned out coverage of the leaks, which otherwise would likely be front-page news. Wednesday will be Trump's last chance to confront Clinton directly about these issues.

The Wall

It is interesting how little of the first two debates had to to with **immigration**, one of the defining issues of Trump's campaign. We should get more on that topic in Vegas. Wallace has announced that **immigration** will be one of the six topics covered during the debate. The other five:

\* Debt and entitlements

\* Economy

\* Supreme Court

\* Foreign hot spots

\* Fitness to be president

Note that this is a moderator-only debate, not a town hall like the last one, which featured questions from the audience, though we would not be surprised to see some kind of question from social media or via video.

Remember the swing states

People tend to get all excited on debate nights about insta-polls on who won. We encourage you to ignore all that.

With three weeks to go until the election, all that really matters now are Florida, North Carolina, Ohio and Pennsylvania. Trump basically has to win all four of these states to have any chance of winning the White House. Heading in to the debate, Clinton holds leads in the polls in Florida, Pennsylvania and North Carolina, according to USA TODAY's trusty Poll Tracker, powered by RealClearPolitics.

The question on Thursday morning will be: Did Trump do enough Wednesday night to turn the tide on those critical states?

Trick or Treat

With Halloween less than two weeks away, Trump is clearly winning the costume wars. By all accounts, Trump masks and costumes are far outselling Clinton masks and costumes. But perhaps a third party, such as red-sweatered Ken Bone, star of the second debate, is keeping Clinton from closing the gap.

\* QUIZ: Test your memory of general election debates

\* INTERACTIVE: Decide the next president's path to the White House

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**BAGHDAD -- The Iraqi army's march on Mosul has sent a wave of hope through the half-million **refugees** who fled Iraq's second-largest city after the Islamic State's rise to power two years ago.

"To be honest, I have nothing in particular on my mind now apart from excitement and joy," said Julian Capo. "I feel an actual shiver of joy with each piece of news of our army's advancement toward Mosul. "

Capo, 23, ran an Internet service provider in Al-Hamdaniya, a town on the edge of Mosul, before he fled to Irbil in Kurdistan in 2014 after the Islamic State's advance. Like many others forced to leave, he just wants to go home.

Still, he likely has a long wait. Iraqi and U. S. military officials warn that the offensive won't end quickly. And the United Nations says civilians in Mosul and its outskirts are in danger as Iraqi forces, including Kurdish fighters and militiamen backed by Iran, clash with the militants determined to hold onto the city.

"Families are at extreme risk of being caught in crossfire or targeted by snipers," United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator Stephen O'Brien said in a statement. "Tens of thousands of Iraqi girls, boys, women and men may be under siege or held as human shields. "

Taking back Mosul could displace as many as 1 million people, creating a new **refugee** crisis that Iraqi and U. N officials are not prepared to handle, O'Brien said. The U. N. can shelter 60,000 people, he said. Constructing facilities for another 250,000 people is now underway.

War has displaced a total of 3. 3 million **refugees**, or 10% percent of Iraq's population, since the Islamic State seized around a third of Iraq in 2014, the UN said. The Iraqi army has pushed the militants back, but they still control the vital city of Mosul.

U. N. High Commissioner for **Refugees** Filippo Grandi also warned the Iraqi government to prevent violence directed against **refugees**.

After Iraqi forces retook the city of Fallujah from the Islamic State over the summer, human rights groups alleged that Shiite-led militias carried out summary executions, torture, disappearances, the mutilation of corpses and mistreatment of imprisoned **refugees**, especially Sunni Muslim men suspected of sympathizing with the Islamic State.

"The protection of civilians is the most important element of this operation from our perspective," Grandi said in a statement. He said Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi assured him that protecting civilians was one of Iraq's goals in retaking Mosul. "I received assurances that it will be, because it will be indispensable for the future of Iraq, for a future in which the people of Iraq can live together and build a prosperous country. "

As some **refugees** excitedly wait to go home, schoolteacher Najah Al Kass Younan, 55, said he and his neighbors would make sure new arrivals were welcome in their town of Alqosh. The Islamic State never took over Alqosh, about 30 miles north of Mosul. But around 600 families fled to the town two years ago, and residents anticipate many more people coming.

"We used to call our town, the 'Mother of Villages," Younan said in a phone interview. "And it has proved over time that it would protect all the neighboring towns' inhabitants in hard times. "

As Iraqi forces advanced on the outskirts of Mosul, the atmosphere in Alqosh has become electric, Younan said. While he wasn't a **refugee**, he wants life to go back to normal, and he's become close to people yearning to go back home.

"Over the past weeks, we were eagerly waiting for the liberation operation to be launched," Younan said. "Since our prime minister announced the start of the operations, I have not slept. I stayed awake all night following the news. "

Nabeel reported from Istanbul.

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**The circus would like you to stop calling the 2016 election a circus.

On Monday, Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey launched a new campaign titled "The Circus Wants The Circus Back. " The goal: to get rid of the negative association the presidential election has brought to the words "circus" and 'clowns. "

"Everyone from the media to the public to politicians to even President Barack Obama himself have repeatedly called the 2016 Presidential Election a circus or referred to the candidates as clowns," Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Presents Out Of This World Ringmaster Johnathan Lee Iverson said in a press release. "These comparisons need to stop! We want to #TakeBackTheCircus to where it belongs, to the real circus, the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus. "

It isn't the only brand that has suddenly found itself entangled in the election.

Earlier this month, Tics Tacs issued a statement of condemnation after Trump mentioned the candy in a 2005 Access Hollywood video where he discussed being able to grope women because he was a star.

And in September, Trump's son Donald Trump Jr. tweeted an image that compared Syrian **refugees** to poisoned Skittles.

"Skittles are candy. **Refugees** are people. We don't feel it's an appropriate analogy," a Skittles spokeswoman told USA TODAY.

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**ISTANBUL -- On a sunny Saturday afternoon in September, a group of Syrian children gathered with their mothers in a neighborhood park for a free program of games, songs and drawing.

For parents who fled Syria's civil war to give their youngsters a better education here, the sessions led by Syrian music teacher Maisa Alhafez are welcome because Turkey has been unable to provide enough spaces for all the school-age children.

That creates a tough dilemma for the **refugee** parents: enroll their children in a school they can't afford or send them out to work to help support the family.

More than a half-million Syrian children in Turkey aren't enrolled in school, while many of the 330,000 who attend classes can barely afford the fees, according to UNICEF. Other children must work to help support their families, often in textile factories where girls are vulnerable to exploitation.

One mother in the park, Fatima El-Helu, said it took three attempts to find a school that was convenient and affordable. When the family arrived in Istanbul a year ago, El-Helu's two children were placed in a Syrian school out of their area.

"The kids left the house before sunrise to go to a school that is very far away," El-Helu said in Arabic.

After a teacher slapped her son, who has a speech impediment, she moved her children to a Syrian school closer to home. But the hours -- 4 to 10 p. m. -- and the fees of $110 per year plus $32 per week for transportation proved too much.

Now her children are in a Turkish school and seem to have settled in. Her daughter has made friends with a Palestinian girl, so she has someone to speak Arabic with at school. But money is still an issue. According to El-Helu, Turkish children get $10 a year for books and other supplies, while **refugee** students from neighboring Syria are told to share supplies or go without.

Turkey's Ministry of Education, with funding from UNICEF and other aid groups, has set up more than 350 temporary Syrian schools in urban areas of the country, offering courses taught by Syrian instructors in Arabic. The government waived tuition fees for several schools, but parents still must pay a $30 registration fee and transportation costs. Turkish law prohibits employing children under age 15, and those younger than 18 can work only under special circumstances, as long as it doesn't interfere with their schooling, according to the Fair Wear Foundation in Turkey.

There are no solid numbers on how many children are actually in the workforce in violation of the law, but Human Rights Watch says child labor is "rampant. "

"Many children are working the informal sectors -- washing dishes, carrying tea trays and selling tissues on the street," said Daryl Grisgraber, a senior advocate at **Refugees** International. "Children work behind the scenes in the service industry. We also heard a lot about children working in the textile industry. "

Zainab Al-isa, 14, and Alia Ibrahim, 15, are friends from Aleppo, Syria, and both work here in Syrian-run textile factories. They said Syrian girls are especially vulnerable to working long hours and are paid $270 a month, while the boys they work with make double that.

Al-isa said she was attending a Turkish school but had trouble understanding her classes. When it came time to take midyear exams, her parents pulled her out of school to start working. Asked if she wants to go back to her studies, she said, "No, I won't go back to school because I like working. "

UNICEF strongly urges the Turkish government to develop programs to protect Syrian children and ensure their right to go to school. The Turkish Ministry of Education declined to comment on the issue.

With the new school year just beginning, El-Helu said she is not sure what she will do if she cannot afford the transportation cost. "I just hope we can return to Syria soon," she said.

Contributing: Muhammad Abunnassr

Bonessi is a fellow with the International Center for Journalists, currently based in Istanbul.

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**An alleged plot to blow up a Kansas apartment complex filled with Somali **immigrants** one day after the November elections aimed to create a "bloodbath" to "wake up" the country politically, according to one of three members of a militia group charged with domestic terrorism, federal authorities say.

Authorities said Friday that Curtis Allen and Gavin Wright, both 49 and from Liberal, Kan. , and Patrick Eugene Stein, 47, of Wright, Kan. , were members of a small, anti-Muslim group called the Crusaders that espoused sovereign-citizen, anti-government, anti-Muslim and anti-**immigrant** extremist beliefs.

They had allegedly been plotting since February to blow up the apartment complex and mosque in Garden City, a meatpacking town in western Kansas. Prosecutors said the thwarted attack was planned for the day after the November elections.

"These individuals had the desire, the means, the capability to carry out this act of domestic terrorism," Eric Jackson, FBI Kansas City special agent in charge, said in announcing the arrests in Wichita.

Acting U. S. Attorney Tom Beall said at the news conference in downtown Wichita that the plot "was imminent and . . . these individuals, they were committed to carrying this out. "

According to a federal complaint released after the arrests, Stein was surreptitiously taped in June referring to the Somalis as "cockroaches" and saying "the only (expletive) way this country's ever going to get turned around is it will be a bloodbath and it will be a nasty, messy (expletive). "

"Unless a lot more people in this country wake up and smell the (expletive) coffee and decide they want this country back . . . we might be too late. If they do wake up . . . I think we can get it done. But it ain't going to be nothing nice about it," Stein was recorded as saying, according to the federal affidavit.

Beall said the investigation involved an FBI probe "deep into a hidden culture of hatred, violence. "

Under the alleged plot, the three -- described as architects of the scheme -- planned to park vehicles loaded with explosives at all four corners of the apartment complex and detonate them using a cellphone.

Although authorities had been monitoring the group for months through a paid informant, police moved in Tuesday after Allen's girlfriend called Liberal, Kan. , police to report a domestic battery incident. Stein also told the FBI informant that he was worried Allen's girlfriend would go to the police and disclose the militia's plans, Beall said.

She led police to a large stash of weapons and reported Stein had recently brought a white powdery substance into the house and had been watching YouTubevideos on how to make explosives. Police officers estimated they found "close to a metric ton of ammunition in Allen's residence," the affidavit says.

Police later arrested Allen after stopping his vehicle on the highway.

In the Wednesday search of a mobile home center that Wright owned and where Allen lived, police found a possible detonator as well as items used to make improvised explosives, the federal complaint says.

Also found, according to the affidavit, was a yellow binder and paperwork labeled "The Anarchist Cookbook. "

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HEREImmigrants** are gaining on U. S. -born residents in homeownership, a positive development that's likely enhancing their contribution to the economy, a Truliastudy shows.

"When it comes to achieving the American dream, (**immigrants**) look very similar to native-born Americans," says Ralph McLaughlin, chief economist of Trulia, a real estate research firm.

**Immigration** has played a central role in the presidential campaign, with Republican Donald Trump calling for tighter constraints and the deportation of millions of undocumented **immigrants**.

Half of **immigrants** in the country owned homes last year, compared with 66% of U. S. -born residents, the smallest gap between the two groups in the past two decades, the study says. The disparity peaked in 2001, when 70. 3% of American-born residents owned homes, vs. 49. 6% of **immigrants**.

Foreign-born homeowners are more likely than renters to amass home equity and wealth and spend more, adding to U. S. economic growth. They're also more likely to be involved in their communities and civic affairs.

The main reason **immigrants** are catching up is that their average tenure in the U. S. has increased, giving them more time to build up a work history, burnish their credit scores and save for a down payment, McLaughlin says. In 2014, 75% of **immigrants** had lived in the U. S. at least 10 years, up from 65% in 2005, according to data from the Census Bureau and Trulia.

In Montana and Vermont, the states with the smallest gaps between native-born and **immigrant** homeownership rates -- 3. 2 percentage points and 4. 2 percentage points, respectively -- **immigrants** have among the highest average tenures in the US.

Other forces are also at work. Since the housing crash and Great Recession, the homeownership rate for all Americans has fallen, reaching a 50-year low of 62. 9% in the second quarter. Many people lost homes through foreclosure. And credit standards remain tight, especially for Millennials burdened by student debt whose careers were set back by the downturn.

But in recent years, the ownership rate for American-born residents has continued to fall while the rate for **immigrants** has leveled off. To **immigrate** to the U. S. , especially in economically challenging times, foreign-born residents likely must have more resources, and skew older than, their American counterparts, McLaughlin says.

From 2006 to 2014, the portion of U. S. -born households headed by 18- to 25-year-olds has been stable at 11%, while the share of **immigrant** households led by young adults has dropped to 8. 7% from 11. 6%, according to Census Bureau and Trulia figures.

"It takes some money and job prospects" to pull up stakes, McLaughlin says.

Yet another factor: A tight labor market has many employers struggling to find workers and willing to go to greater lengths to secure visas for foreign employees who are highly skilled, he says.

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**WASHINGTON -- The Supreme Court agreed Tuesday to decide whether former top Bush administration officials can be held liable for the arrest, detention and harsh treatment of Muslims and other illegal **immigrants** following the 9/11 attacks.

The three combined cases are unusual for two reasons: The Obama administration will be defending President George W. Bush's "war on terrorism," and two of the court's remaining eight justices will not take part because of conflicts of interest. If the case is heard before a ninth justice is confirmed, only six justices will participate.

The federal government previously has won six cases challenging its policies in the wake of the Sept. 11 attacks, which included the arrest and detention of more than 750 undocumented **immigrants**. The latest cases specifically target former attorney general John Ashcroft and Robert Mueller, the former FBI director, for culpability; they in turn claim immunity from prosecution.

Justices do not say why they recuse themselves from cases. But Sotomayor sat on a panel of the U. S. Court of Appeals for the 2nd Circuit during an earlier version of the case, while Kagan was U. S. solicitor general during its initial prosecution.

The justices also will consider the unusual case of a 15-year-old Mexican boy shot and killed from across the U. S. -Mexico border in 2010 by a Border Patrol agent who claimed he was being attacked with rocks. Videos showed that children were playing a game that involved running to and from the border fence dividing El Paso from Ciudad Juárez.

Because the shooting crossed international lines, both U. S. and Mexican authorities were rebuffed in their efforts to bring the agent to justice. The boy's parents later sued in federal district court in Texas.

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**WASHINGTON -- The now-infamous tape of Donald Trump making lewd comments about women is almost sure to hurt vulnerable Republican senators battling for re-election, making it harder for the GOP to retain control of the Senate on Election Day, analysts said Monday.

"There's no way Republicans come out ahead on this," said Jack Pitney, a political science professor at Claremont McKenna College in California.

An NBC News/Wall Street Journal poll released Monday shows that voters now favor Democrats over Republicans for Congress by 7 percentage points -- Democrats' biggest lead in that metric since the October 2013 government shutdown that most voters blamed on the GOP. The new poll was taken after the Trump tape became public, but before Sunday night's debate between Trump and Democrat Hillary Clinton.

"Donald Trump only cares about Donald Trump," Pitney said. "He doesn't care what he's doing to Republicans in Congress. "

Trump proved that during Sunday night's debate, analysts said, when he defiantly dismissed his 2005 comments about grabbing women's genitals as "locker room talk" and denied that he was bragging about sexual assault.

The GOP nominee has once again put vulnerable Republican senators and candidates in the tough position of having to choose whether to anger die-hard Trump supporters or the independent voters they will need to win re-election, said Eric Herzik, chairman of the political science department at the University of Nevada, Reno.

"They risk **alienating** the most loyal Trump supporters if they denounce him," Herzik said. "And they're still going to be criticized by Democrats for supporting him for months. I don't think you can walk back your support for Trump at this point and actually gain voters. The best you can hope for is you might limit the bleeding. "

Republicans currently hold 54 seats in the 100 seat Senate; if Hillary Clinton wins the White House, Democrats need capture only four GOP seats to retake control, since the Democratic Vice President would break ties in their favor.

Republican Senate candidates have been rushing to do that since the tape of Trump making the lewd comments became public on Friday afternoon.

Among the GOP senators and candidates in competitive races who have rescinded their endorsements of Trump: Sens. Kelly Ayotte of New Hampshire, John McCain of Arizona and Rob Portman of Ohio. Rep. Joe Heck, who is running for the open Senate seat in Nevada that is being vacated by retiring Minority Leader Harry Reid, also took back his support of Trump.

When Heck announced his decision Saturday at a campaign rally, he was booed by some Trump loyalists.

"They called him traitor," Herzik said. "That's the risk you take. "

Sen. Pat Toomey, R-Pa. , denounced both Trump and Clinton in his latest comments while stopping short of saying whether he will vote for Trump on Nov. 8.

"Sadly, last night's debate again showed the shortcomings of both presidential candidates," Toomey said in a statement Monday. "I have not endorsed Donald Trump and I have repeatedly spoken out against his flawed policies and his outrageous comments, including his indefensible and appalling comments about women. "

However, Toomey also denounced Clinton and his Democratic challenger, Katie McGinty, in the same statement.

"Katie McGinty has yet to say a single word against Hillary Clinton's disastrous policies that have endangered our country, her widespread dishonesty, or the corruption of her behavior with the Clinton Foundation," Toomey said.

McGinty called on Toomey to "man up" and oppose Trump.

Pitney said the best thing a Republican candidate can do in this difficult situation is to tell voters how they truly feel about Trump instead of trying to straddle the political line.

"If you really support Trump, then say so," the professor said. "If you don't, then tell the truth. In a campaign, insincerity shows. You may **alienate** some people by being honest, but at least you don't look like a jerk. "

House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis. , told his Republican colleagues in a phone call Monday that he would no longer defend Trump but would focus on trying to hold onto the GOP majorities in the House and Senate. Ryan did not rescind his endorsement of Trump.

"The speaker is going to spend the next month focused entirely on protecting our congressional majorities," said Ryan spokeswoman AshLee Strong.

While that strategy may sound good, it's nearly impossible to carry out successfully, said Grant Reeher, a political science professor and director of the Alan K. Campbell Public Affairs Institute at Syracuse University. Republican and independent voters who are turned off by Trump may stay home on election day rather than showing up just to help congressional candidates, Reeher said.

"The problem with (Ryan's strategy) is that the presidential election is still the best leverage point to motivate voters to turn out at the polls," Reeher said. "If the Republicans try to turn this election into an off-year election, it's going to work against them. "

Senate Republicans should not be surprised that Trump doesn't care about their races since he's been running against the GOP establishment all along, Reeher said.

"His attitude toward them in the last debate was: 'You think I've been too extreme? Watch this. ' "

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**WASHINGTON -- GOP vice presidential candidate Mike Pence said Thursday he didn't spend time in Tuesday's debate defending some of Donald Trump's past comments because Trump no longer believes what he said.

"It's not Donald Trump's position now," Pence said on CNN when asked about Trump's call to temporarily ban Muslims from entering the United States and his ethnicity-based attacks on an Indiana-born judge.

Before becoming Trump's running mate, Pence called Trump's comments about U. S. District Judge Gonzalo Curiel inappropriate. He said Trump's proposal to ban Muslims was offensive and unconstitutional.

Democratic vice presidential candidate Tim Kaine repeatedly tried in Tuesday's vice presidential debate to get Indiana's governor to repeat those past criticisms.

"When Donald Trump says Mexicans are rapists and criminals, Mexican **immigrants**, when Donald Trump says about your judge, a Hoosier judge, he said that Judge Curiel was unqualified to hear a case because his parents were Mexican, I can't imagine how you could defend that," Kaine said.

CNN's Chris Cuomo tried the same approach Thursday morning.

"You said Trump is wrong about categorically saying Muslims can't get into this country," he said to Pence. "Why not just own your own truth on those situations?"

Pence said Trump is not calling now for a ban on all Muslims, but to suspend **immigration** from countries compromised by terrorism.

"I understand why the other side wants to keep bringing up prior statements earlier in the campaign," Pence said. "Donald Trump has said in this campaign that -- that he has regretted the times that -- that he didn't choose his words well, particularly where it's created, you know, personal pain for people. "

In a separate CNN interview, Kaine said the fact that some of the post-debate coverage has focused on Pence deflecting questions about Trump shows the success of the Democratic strategy of trying to keep Pence from scoring points against Kaine's running mate.

"None of the post-debate coverage was really anything about attacks on Hillary Clinton," Kaine said.

The Virginia senator also said the fact that Trump was viewed as doing poorly in the first debate in contrast to Pence's performance "has led to a number of stories suggesting that the GOP is really having buyer's remorse about Donald Trump as their nominee. "

"I think that's going to work on (Trump's) head a little bit as he goes into prepping for the really important (presidential) debate on Sunday," Kaine said.

Pence continued a post-debate bus tour into Pennsylvania Thursday, while Kaine campaigned in Nevada.

Contact Maureen Groppe at mgroppe@gannett. com. Follow her on Twitter: @mgroppe.

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**SKALA SYKAMIAS, Greece -- Emilia Kamvysi is not the typical Nobel Peace Prize candidate.

The 86-year-old is not a politician, activist or lawyer. Her days are simple and slow. Like other Greek retirees on the island of Lesbos off the Turkish coast, she cooks for her children and grandchildren, watches the evening news and sits on the bench with her neighbors gazing at the sea.

Then her life changed. Along with two neighbors --aged 89 and 85 -- Kamvysi was sitting on a bench in February, helping out a Syrian **refugee** mother by feeding her child with a bottle. The photo went viral, and she and the two other grannies in the photo became symbols of Greek generosity toward the migrants who have fled to Europe in recent years.

Soon after, a group of Greek lawmakers, academics and others nominated the grandmother as well as Greek fisherman Stratis Valiamos and actress Susan Sarandon. A second nomination included the grandmother and local agencies. Both cited their humanitarian efforts for the **refugees**.

This Friday, Kamvysi and her granny-corps will find out whether she'll become an official laureate alongside President Obama, Nelson Mandela and Mikhail Gorbachev.

"I wish that Greece wins this prize, not just me," Kamvysi said, pledging if she wins to give her share of the $1. 2 million prize to the decaying Greek healthcare system.

She lives well enough now on a $360-per-month farmer's-pension, she said.

"What am I going to do with it anyway?" she asked. "There are many people that helped the **refugees** -- the fishermen, the volunteers. It wasn't just us. Those poor babies, escaping war and drowning in the waters. It's such a shame. We're all crying in the village whenever there's a shipwreck. "

While Greece is struggling amid an eight-year economic crisis, it has handled almost one million migrants since last year.

Since an agreement between the European Union and Turkey closed off the so-called Balkan route into Europe, more than 60,000 **refugees** and asylum-seekers have been stuck in Greece waiting for **immigration** authorities to process them.

Last year, at the peak of the **refugee** crisis, as many as 6,500 people arrived daily in the Greek islands, according to government figures. Last month, an average of 100 **refugees** arrived per day. Their journey is still treacherous. More than 600 migrants lost their lives or went missing in the Mediterranean in September.

In Kamvysi's eyes, every **refugee** who arrives is her mother and father. Her parents fled their home on Moshonisi Island during the Greek-Turkish war in 1922. Today, the island in northwestern Turkey is called Cunda.

"My mom was born in Turkey," Kamvysi said. "She left persecuted and arrived here when she was only 17 years old. They came with hurt souls. It's exactly how I see the **refugees** are today. When they arrived in Greece, the locals didn't want them and saw them as foreigners. "

Her family lived in the village's oil press, hanging sheets from the ceiling to divide the building's floor space into rooms.

Kamvysi's mother was her father's second wife. The Turkish army killed his first wife at the outset of the war. On Lesbos, he married her mother and started a new family in the village of Skala Sykamias.

"Our mothers arrived on a fishing boat only with a trunk of clothes and a sewing machine," said Maritsa Mavrapidou, Kamvysi's buoyant cousin, 85, who was also in the now-famous photo.

"Concerning the photo that people talk about: we didn't do really anything," Mavrapidou said. "The mother came out of the boat, soaking wet. We held and fed her baby while she was changing. I have 16 grandchildren. Our hearts break to see so many children on the **refugee** boats. "

Mavrapidou's sister, Efstathia, 89, was the third woman in the photo.

In a green turtleneck and a vest, Kamvysi sits on the couch of her 100-square-feet home in her tiny fishing village. On a nearby table are photos of her children and grandchildren. She has a TV, refrigerator, oven, armchair, table and a couch that doubles as her bed at night.

For the journalists and photographers who have stepped into her home recently, she brews a Greek coffee and brings out a jar of candy. Still, the media attention has often been tiring for the three grannies. They complained they had to dress up every day to greet journalists from as far as Bolivia and Bangladesh, as well as politicians.

In the small island of Lesbos, meanwhile, the three grandmas have become celebrities.

"It's good for the island and good for the grandmas," said Roula Kyparisi, a bed and breakfast owner on Lesbos. "We're all hoping they will win it. It's so strange that your neighbor is a candidate for a Nobel Prize. "

Like many Greek grandmas, Kamvysi was a housewife devoted to her children's upbringing and her husband's needs, and also worked hard on the farm. She recalls living a harsh life, where her husband only thanked her once -- on his deathbed.

"I didn't expect this recognition at my age," Kamvysi said. "Unfortunately, there are still wars going on. Don't you see the things on TV? I can't watch these things. I get sad. "

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**MIAMI -- Reginald Jean-Mary sat in his office at Notre Dame D'Haiti Catholic Church in the Little Haiti neighborhood of this southern city on Wednesday debating what to do with the donations that are coming in for Hurricane Matthew relief.

Pack it all in a container and send it to his native Haiti? Or save some for the Haitian-American community in Florida now threatened by the same storm?

"We feel that we have a moral obligation to respond to Haiti like we normally do," said Jean-Mary, a reverend and administrator of the church. "But we also have a duty to the people here. "

Hurricane Matthew's unprecedented path - slamming Jamaica, Haiti, Cuba and possibly the United States - has disrupted the usual lines of relief that flow from **immigrants** in the U. S. back to their home countries. After each hurricane or earthquake that has devastated those Caribbean nations, expats concentrated in Florida have collected money and supplies to help their countries rebuild.

But now with Matthew bearing down on Florida, relief agencies are stuck.

Part of the problem is that Hurricane Matthew is blocking any aid from reaching those islands.

"We can't respond until the shipping lanes or the air space are cleared," said José Espino, the pastor of San Lázaro Catholic Church in the Cuban enclave of Hialeah. "If I wanted to fly a plane into Cuba right now, it's impossible. You have to wait until everything is clear. "

Espino said basic communication also remains a major obstacle. The Cuban-born priest was raised in the eastern section of Cuba that was hit hardest by Matthew - he grew up in Guantanamo and was a pastor in Baracoa, a coastal city where high storm surge devastated entire city blocks.

Yet even Espino hasn't been able to communicate with people in Baracoa. That means he doesn't know if the airport, which is right on the water, could receive aid flights. He doesn't know if shipments sent to the western end of the island could reach the ravaged eastern tip since early reports indicate roads are flooded or completely washed out.

"So where do you go?" said Espino, who has spent years coordinating aid shipments to Cuba.

Jean-Mary said donations have also been slower than he's seen after previous disasters because people throughout South Florida are busy buying supplies for their own families and preparing their homes for Matthew's possible landfall.

The easiest problem to solve, it turns out, has been figuring out how to help people in those Caribbean nations and those in South Florida at the same time.

"Here in South Florida, we have the organized effort of the charities and the government and insurance," said Mary Ross Agosta of the Archdiocese of Miami. "We know that while recovery here may take some time, it will be done. But our brothers and sisters on the islands don't have those mechanisms, don't have have that organization. "

Rep. Carlos Curbelo, R-Fla. , a Cuban-American, said people in South Florida also have a unique, first-hand understanding of just how poor and vulnerable people back in their home countries are. More than 20% of the people living in the Miami metropolitan area - which includes Miami, Fort Lauderdale and West Palm Beach - come from Caribbean nations, according to a report from the Migration Policy Institute.

Those **immigrants** regularly send billions of dollars back to their families and friends in the form of remittances. In 2015, Cubans received $3. 4 billion in remittances, Jamaicans received $2. 3 billion and Haitians received $2. 2 billion, most coming from relatives in the U. S. , according to data from the World Bankand the Havana Consulting Group.

Those numbers spike after disasters, and Curbelo was confident that will happen again now, no matter how hard Florida is hit.

"As tough as things will get here, we know that the people of Haiti and Jamaica and Cuba are far worse off," Curbelo said. "This is a generous community and we'll keep helping them. "

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**WASHINGTON -- The White House is putting forward a proposal to add a new racial category for people from the Middle East and North Africa under what would be the biggest realignment of federal racial definitions in decades.

If approved, the new designation could appear on census forms in 2020 and could have far-reaching implications for racial identity, anti-discrimination laws and health research.

Under current law, people from the Middle East are considered white, the legacy of century-old court rulings in which Syrian Americans argued that they should not be considered Asian -- because that designation would deny them citizenship under the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act. But scholars and community leaders say more and more people with their roots in the Middle East find themselves caught between white, black and Asian classifications that don't fully reflect their identities.

"What it does is it helps these communities feel less invisible," said Helen Samhan of the Arab American Institute, which has been advocating the change for more than 30 years. "It's a good step, a positive step. "

On Friday, the White House Office of Management and Budget advanced the proposal with a notice in the Federal Register, seeking comments on whether to add Middle Eastern and North African as a separate racial or ethnic category, which groups would be included, and what it should be called.

Under the proposal, the new Middle East and North African designation -- or MENA, as it's called by population scholars -- is broader in concept than Arab (an ethnicity) or Muslim (a religion). It would include anyone from a region of the world stretching from Morocco to Iran, and including Syrian and Coptic Christians, Israeli Jews and other religious minorities.

But the Census Bureau, which has been quietly studying the issue for two years, also has gotten caught up in debates about some groups -- such as Turkish, Sudanese and Somali Americans -- who aren't included in that category. Those are issues the White House is trying to resolve before adding the box on 2020 census forms.

Adding a box on the census form could have implications beyond racial identity. According to the White House notice, the new data could be used for a wide range of political and policy purposes, including:

\* Enforcing the Voting Rights Act and drawing congressional and state legislative district boundaries;

\* Establishing federal affirmative action plans and evaluating claims of employment discrimination in employment in the private sector;

\* Monitoring discrimination in housing, mortgage lending and credit;

\* Enforcing school desegregation policies; and

\* Helping minority-owned small businesses get federal grants and loans.

Adding the classification also would help the government and independent scholars understand more about trends in health, employment and education.

"We can't even ask questions like that, because we don't have the data," said Germine Awad, an Egyptian-American and professor of educational psychology at the University of Texas at Austin.

The racial classifications have been unchanged since 1997, and Michigan's congressional delegation has argued that they're due for an update. Rep. Debbie Dingell, D-Mich. , said Friday the White House action was good news. Adding a MENA category, she said, would allow many of her Michigan constituents to "accurately identify themselves and access the employment, health, education and representation services that are based on census data. "

There are an estimated 3. 6 million Arab-Americans in the United States, but that doesn't include other ethnic groups that could put the total Middle Eastern and North African population above 10 million. According to the Census Bureau's American Community Survey -- a survey conducted in between the 10-year census cycle based on a statistical sample -- about 1 million people from the region are first-generation **immigrants** to the United States.

"You have individuals within this designation that would consider themselves white, and they certainly have a right to their identity. It's not about identity in the psychological way. It's about where would you fit the best on this form," Awad said. "If you talk to anybody at the census, they'll tell you that their job is not to help anybody with their racial or ethnic identity. "

And some, especially in the Muslim-American community, are also concerned about how the data might be used -- especially given proposals by Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump for a moratorium on Muslim **immigrants** and for increased surveillance of Muslim communities.

"It just aids and facilitates the state's ability to know where these communities are in a very specific fashion," said Khalid Beydoun, a law professor at the University of Detroit. "My inclination is to think that individuals who might identify might not check the box for fear of retribution -- especially if Trump wins. "

But Beydoun, a naturalized citizen with Egyptian and Lebanese parents, said he still supports the proposal as an expression of Middle Eastern identity.

"In the grand scheme of things, it's really a progressive stride forward," he said. "But in the broader landscape, it's taking place in the context of greater animus against Arab Americans, and really, Islamophobia. "

Comments on the proposal are due in 30 days, making it possible for the Obama administration to enact the change in the last three months of a presidency that has spent considerable effort to be more inclusive of Arab-Americans and other Middle Easterners.

"I think with him being the first African-American president and being an obvious example of making the American fabric more diverse, that this could be great sign of inclusion about what it means to be an American," Awad said.

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**Donald Trump testified in a lawsuit this year that he planned to describe some Mexican **immigrants** as criminals and rapists during the 2015 announcement of his presidential campaign.

"Yes," a low-key Trump said during the June deposition when asked if he planned his remarks about Mexicans, one of several one-word answers he gave to questions about his announcement speech of a year before. Asked if he wrote out the speech beforehand, Trump said "no. "

The New York businessman also testified that he was referring to "illegal **immigrants**," and he did not think about how his comments might affect business deals.

Video of a June 16 deposition surfaced pursuant to the order of a Washington judge hearing a lawsuit that the Republican presidential nominee filed after a chef withdrew plans for a restaurant at a new Trump hotel in light of his comments about Mexicans.

Trump's lawyers tried to keep the deposition video under seal over concerns that political opponents would use it in campaign ads.

The court also released a video deposition of Donald Trump, Jr.

During his June 2015 announcement speech, Trump said:

"When Mexico sends its people, they're not sending their best. They're not sending you. They're not sending you. They're sending people that have lots of problems, and they're bringing those problems with us. They're bringing drugs. They're bringing crime. They're rapists. And some, I assume, are good people. "

In denying his comments were offensive, Trump cited his success in the Republican primaries.

"I'm running for office. I obviously have credibility because I now, as it turns out, became the Republican nominee running against, we have a total of 17 people that were mostly senators and governors, highly respected people," Trump said during the deposition.

Trump also claimed the media distorted his remarks: "I think the media is very dishonest. But all I'm doing is bringing up a situation which is very real, about illegal **immigration**. And I think, you know, most people think I'm right. "

That kind of popularity would help a restaurant succeed, Trump testified -- though his comments may dissuade Hispanics from patronizing his establishments.

"It is always possible," Trump said. "I just don't know. I mean, I don't know how to answer that question. It's possible. "

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**PARIS -- Yael Haccoun and her family are Orthodox Jews from the working-class Paris suburb of Sarcelles, but they flew to Israel in late September to start a new life and escape the anti-Semitism around them.

"French people think that it's natural when Jews are targeted" in terror attacks, said Haccoun, 33, as she waited with her husband and their three children here at the airport. "The fact that the army must protect Jewish schools and synagogues isn't normal. "

She said her family watched in horror in July 2014 as a demonstration protesting Israel's war with Hamas turned into an anti-Semitic rampage. Dozens of young men chanting "God is great" in Arabic and "death to the Jews" attacked Jewish-owned businesses with clubs and fire bombs.

The number of French Jews **immigrating** to Israel rose from 1,900 in 2011 to nearly 8,000 last year, said Jacques Canet, president of La Victoire, the great synagogue of Paris. He said the country's 500,000 to 600,000 French Jews -- the third largest Jewish population in the world -- "feel threatened. "

"Increasingly, Jews in Paris, Marseilles, Toulouse, Sarcelles feel they can't safely wear a kippah (yarmulke, or skull cap) outside their homes or send their children to public schools, where Muslim children bully Jewish children," Canet said.

A poll by the French Institute of Public Opinion in January showed 43% of France's Jewish Community are considering a move to Israel, and 51% said they have "been threatened" because they are Jewish.

Those with enough money have moved to more upscale areas within France or to Canada, England or the United States, Canet said. The wealthy, staunch Zionists and those who can't afford to send their children to private Jewish schools go to Israel.

Moshe Sabbag, rabbi of La Victoire, believes "100%" of France's Jews are thinking of moving, but that prospect is daunting. The majority of France's Jews **immigrated** to France in the 1950s and 1960s from North African Muslim countries.

French Jews "love France, they love French culture, they want to stay," Sabbag said just before leading Friday night services at the synagogue. "But Jews were targeted during huge demonstrations against the 2014 Gaza war. They were killed in Toulouse and Hypercacher," he said, referring to the 2012 attack on a Jewish school that killed four people and the 2015 attack on a kosher Paris supermarket that left four dead. Muslim extremists carried out both attacks.

Although 2015 was a record year for French **immigration** to Israel, the numbers this year are lower. As of August 2016, 40% fewer Jews had arrived, compared to the same period last year, according to the Jewish Agency for Israel.

Dov Maimon, a senior fellow at the Israel Public Policy Institute, a think tank, said there are a number of reasons for the decline.

"First, Jews in France are feeling more secure because the (French) prime minister has beefed up security around Jewish institutions, while the increase in terror attacks this winter in Israel may have scared off some people. It may also be that the most ideologically driven Jews have already **immigrated**," Maimon said.

The biggest factor, Maimon said, "is that the Israeli prime minister promised French Jews he would take care of them if they came to Israel. They believed Israel would provide them with jobs and housing, but France is a welfare state. Israel is not. "

He pointed out that 100 French **immigrant** families have returned to France so far this year.

Despite some governmental and agency assistance, "they didn't find jobs, their kids didn't learn Hebrew, and French Jews still in France say, 'I don't want to be like them. '"

Yechiel Eckstein believes the assistance is making a difference. Eckstein, founder of the International Fellowship for Christians and Jews, said his group provided plane tickets, $1,000 and other services to 700 new French **immigrants** during the past two years, including 70 people on the Haccouns' flight.

"Our volunteers meet every person who arrives. We help them find a place to live and a school for their children. We help them write a resume and pay for day care so they can look for a job," Eckstein said.

In the Sarcelles suburb, Rabbi Yaakov Bitton, head of an Orthodox Jewish elementary school, asked his students to raise their hands if their families planned to move to Israel. Almost every child did.

"Twenty years ago there were 30,000 Jews in Sarcelles. Today there are 15,000," Bitton said.

Despite the exodus, Bitton's son Mendel, who is also a rabbi, is building a yeshiva in the town. "We believe that there is a future for Jews here," Mendel Bitton said.

Toulouse residents Michelle Aiache, 65, and her husband Roger, 71, left for Israel from Paris on the same flight as the Haccoun family.

Security fears played a role in their decision to move, but "the main reason is because our three children and all five grandchildren live in Jerusalem," Michelle Aiache said. "We're not fleeing from France. We're going to Israel. "

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**Do this right now to your Yahoo account. Like now

If you have a Yahoo account, reset your password. Immediately. That's because the company announced Thursday at least 500 million accounts were stolen. That's right -- 500 million people whose names, email addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth and, in some cases, encrypted or unencrypted security questions and answers were stolen. Yahoo said it will notify account holders who were potentially affected. But still change your password. Better safe, than sorry. The company believes a state-sponsored actor was behind the hack. This all comes as Yahoo is completing its multibillion-dollar sale to Verizon. Such great timing.

Day 2 in Charlotte: The nightmare continues

It got ugly Wednesday night in Charlotte. Again. During the second night of protests, following Keith Lamont Scott's death, one person was shot, two officers and nine civilians were injured, and 44 people were arrested. Police Chief Kerr Putney said Thursday he will allow Scott's family to view police video of the incident. Not on the list to the see the video: the public. Everyone still disagrees on whether Scott had a gun or a book the night he died. His neighbors remember Scott fondly and say he was a daily reader. Police say he had a gun. If you're a parent wondering how to talk to your children about the constant stories of police violence, we've got some tips.

Say it ain't so, Brad Pitt

We never saw it coming. The child abuse accusations or the divorce. Yet multiple reports allege Brad Pitt is under investigation for verbal and physical abuse against his children. The Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services won't confirm if it is investigating Pitt. But the Los Angeles Police Department was clear that it's not investigating him. If things weren't already confusing, French actress Marion Cotillard said she's not involved and wants no part of the divorce media storm. She is happily coupled with her French partner Guillaume Canet. Cotillard wrote on Instagram (because where else do you go to clear your name?) she was not a cause for the #Brangelina divorce. She's pregnant with her second child with Canet and wishes Pitt and Jolie "peace. " We do, too.

The Donald needs a reset with African Americans

Donald Trump's relationship with African Americans is . . . rough. Today just made it worse. First the Republican presidential candidate called for boosting controversial "stop-and-frisk" policing to curb city violence Wednesday. You know, the program that critics say leads to racial profiling and disproportionately affects minorities and was shut down. Not good. Then on Thursday Trump condemned "lawless conduct" in Charlotte and said a "national anti-crime agenda" is needed to heal a divided nation. To make matters worse, the Mahoning County, Ohio, chairwoman for Trump's campaign resigned after a viral video shows her declaring there was "no racism" before President Obama's administration.

The best letter Obama ever received

The world can't agree on what to do with Syria's 13. 5 million **refugees**, but for 6-year-old Alex, it's pretty simple. The New York boy saw the picture we all saw this summer, of 5-year-old Omran Daqneesh, stunned and bloodied in an ambulance after an airstrike in Aleppo, Syria, destroyed his apartment building. Alex wrote to President Obama and told him to bring Omran to his house (park in the driveway, it's no problem). Alex said he'd be waiting with flags, flowers and balloons. "We will give him a family and he will be our brother," he wrote. Obama shared the letter this week during a **refugees** summit at the United Nations and basically said: This is what humanity looks like. Meanwhile, the U. N. said it resumed humanitarian aid deliveries to war-torn Syria. Even if Omran can't come live with Alex, he might get clothes, food and clean water. School is another issue and out of reach for so many Syrian children. That's where George Clooney comes in.

What's scarier than Halloween? All the money you'll spend

Forget Fourth of July or St. Patrick's Day. This year, Halloween's going to cost you a pretty penny. Brace yourselves. Americans are going to spend more than $8 billion trying to impress our kids and friends on Instagram with Halloween costumes, treats and pumpkins. And we haven't even gotten to Thanksgiving or Christmas! No matter how much money you spend this year, just don't buy this costume. And smile for the picture.

Extra Bites

Hello, fall.

Richard Sherman is fed up.

If you have a Samsung Galaxy Note 7, give it back.

Want the Short List delivered straight to your inbox? Sign up!

This is a compilation of stories across USA TODAY.

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**SAN FRANCISCO -- George and Amal Clooney are launching an ambitious initiative to educate Syrian **refugee** children in Lebanon -- and they are getting started with a big injection of cash and brain power from Google.

The Internet giant's philanthropic arm Google. org is donating $1 million to the Clooney Foundation for Justice -- one of 51 philanthropic efforts from companies around the world announced as President Obama convenes a meeting of world leaders at the United Nations on the **refugee** crisis. The White House says corporate commitments for **refugee** relief total $650 million and will provide employment opportunities for 220,000 **refugees** and education for 80,000 **refugees**.

With Google's help, the Clooneys want to help the more than 250,000 children -- about half of the school-age children in Lebanon -- who are not in school. Some have never seen the inside of a classroom.

"That leads to a horrible outcome a decade from now, a generation from now," George Clooney told USA TODAY. "Let's not lose an entire generation of people because they happened to be born in the wrong place at the wrong time. "

The Clooneys' goal: By next September to enroll 10,000 **refugee** children in pop-up schools that teach them everything from math to human rights to computer coding -- all in English. By 2018, they want to enroll 50,000 more.

The movie star-turned-activist and his Lebanon-born, London-raised human rights lawyer wife are using their celebrity to turn the spotlight on one of the world's deadliest battlefields and its young collateral damage. Countries that welcomed Syrian **refugees** such as Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey don't have the vast resources needed to educate them.

The Clooneys say they are starting in Lebanon because of the enormity of the challenge there. More than 1. 5 million Syrians have relocated to Lebanon since the 2011 uprising against Bashar al-Assad, making the tiny country the largest host of **refugees** per capita in the world.

That has led to an education gap. In 2009, 94% of Syrian children were in school, according to the United Nations. Today just four out of 10 Syrian **refugee**children in Lebanon are enrolled in primary and secondary schools.

"We want to get every single out-of-school child in Lebanon an education," Amal Clooney told USA TODAY. "My own family left Lebanon when there was a war there, and I couldn't have done any of the work I have done without having been able to have an education. "

The Clooney Foundation for Justice is working with global education provider SABIS, which has already had success teaching **refugee** kids in a school in Lebanon.

"We learned about a specific school they built in Mtein in the El Mten region of Lebanon," Amal Clooney said. "We started thinking about how do we use this model and make it work at a much bigger scale. "

Temporary schools that use technology in the classroom will be set up in areas with a high concentration of **refugee** children, said Carl Bistany, president of SABIS.

"The plan is to launch up to 10 schools as close as possible to the communities with the highest need in September 2017," he said.

The Clooneys called on Google as its tech partner. (Other partners in the initiative are Virgin Unite and The Radcliffe Foundation. )

"They were a natural partner for us. And, yes, they were very generous," George Clooney said. "But it's their tech support and their ideas about that are going to make the difference for us. "

Google. org dedicates 1% of Google profits and a significant chunk of its employees' time to challenges it believes it's uniquely qualified to address. That includes the **refugee** crisis.

A year ago, Google launched its first global matching campaign, raising $11 million from some 330,00 donors for **refugee** relief organizations in 48 hours by putting an ad on its home page. In all, Google says it has committed more than $16. 5 million to **refugee** relief and 90 employees have put in more than 1,200 hours on relief projects such as installing Wi-Fi along **refugee** migration routes.

Google. org director Jacquelline Fuller says Google will dispatch employees to make sure Syrian **refugee** children get a first-rate education.

"Access to learning and access to information is so much a core part of our values," Fuller said. "The idea that you would have a quarter million **refugee** children in a place like Lebanon with half of them not in school, that is an entire generation who could be contributing to society. This is a cohort of children we need to invest in. "

Follow USA TODAY senior technology writer Jessica Guynn @jguynn

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**Donald Trump Jr. caught a rainbow of colorful criticism across social media after his tweet late Monday comparing Syrian **refugees** to poisoned Skittles. A #TrumpACandy hashtag was created and the Internet did the rest.

Here are some SFW examples:

The Trump campaign issued a statement in support of Donald Trump Jr. Tuesday, calling him "a tremendous asset to the campaign. "

The statement went on to say that Hillary Clinton's "planned 550% increase in Syrian **refugees** is a dangerous proposal that put American lives at risk. Speaking the truth might upset those who would rather be politically correct than safe, but the American people want a change, and only Donald Trump will do what's needed to protect us. "

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**Love is dead

If you spit out your latte in horror or cried in the arms of a stranger Tuesday after getting on Twitter, we totally get it. Brad and Angelina getting a divorce after 12 years (two of them officially married) and six children together is shocking. They literally WERE #relationshipgoals. Half the world is in mourning right now, and half the world is disgusted we care more about one celebrity couple than we do about Syria (probably including Angelina Jolie, who's been asking us to address the global **refugee** crisis for years). Sure, the couple's demise may have been written in their Hollywood DNA, but that doesn't mean we didn't get tricked into believing a gorgeous couple with amazing careers, model kids and more money than God could have it all. The two have always denied they got together while making Mr. and Mrs. Smith (when Pitt was still married to Jennifer Aniston), but Team Jen never bought it, and on Tuesday her fans chanted "K-A-R-M-A. " No matter what you believe, it's impossible not to feel bad for the Jolie-Pitts. Happily ever after, it seems, is more elusive than any of us would like to think. Even for #Brangelina.

'Looks like a bad dude'

"Hands up, don't shoot," became a rallying cry after Michael Brown was killed in 2014 in Ferguson, Mo. Terence Crutcher had his hands up. Police shot. The ACLU of Oklahoma said: "A Tulsa police officer murdered Terence Crutcher in cold blood. " A lawyer for Officer Betty Shelby told the Tulsa World that Crutcher reached toward or into his pockets several times, despite Shelby ordering him not to do so, and that she believed Crutcher was acting like he might be on PCP. In a video of the incident, the Tulsa Police Department can be heard saying Crutcher "looks like a bad dude. " Crutcher's twin sister later said, "That 'big bad dude' was a father . . . a son. " It's the latest death of an unarmed person of color at the hands of police, following those of Eric Garner, Paul O'Neal, Samuel DuBose and others who inspired the Black Lives Matter movement.

Wells Fargo CEO: Sorry. Also, it wasn't a scheme. Also, I'm keeping my money

Wells Fargo admitted this month that thousands of its employees had signed up customers for accounts they did not authorize and knew nothing about. CEO John Stumpf kind of apologized Tuesday in front of the Senate Banking Committee. It went like this (paraphrased): Sorry our employees opened millions of secret accounts without customers' permission in order to meet sales goals. We didn't \*tell\* them to do it. And I know a lot of people lost their jobs because of this, but me and (community banking chief) Carrie Tolstedt are gonna keep our money. She did other good things. The unusually bipartisan response can be summed up in one word uttered incredulously by Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass. : "Seriously?!" Lessons learned from the 2008 financial crisis, combined with tough new regulations, were supposed to ensure these types of shenanigans are a thing of the past, right? Guess not. And, really, it's just the latest regulatory black eye for Wells Fargo.

Warning signs

Two years before the bombings in New York and New Jersey, the FBI investigated suspect Ahmad Rahami after his father allegedly called him a terrorist during a domestic dispute with his brother. A federal law enforcement official told USA TODAY the matter was closed when investigators found nothing to substantiate it. But that domestic dispute wasn't Rahami's only brush with authorities. In 2008, he was ordered to undergo a paternity test and later to pay child support. In 2012, he was accused of violating a domestic violence restraining order. In recent years, he visited Afghanistan a number of times and was questioned upon his return each time. Friends, who said he was "great guy" in high school, also said he changed after these visits. A rambling note that federal officials say was found on Rahami makes references to the 2009 Fort Hood, Texas, shooting and the 2013 Boston Marathon bombings.

L'eggo your Eggo

Eggo waffles were trending on Twitter, and not because Donald Trump Jr. compared them to Syrian **refugees** (hello, that was Skittles). No, the frozen breakfast item that should be enjoying a Stranger Things-inspired surge right now, instead has been recalled by Kellogg's due to listeria concerns. Listeria is a bacteria that can cause nausea and diarrhea and turn deadly in babies, pregnant women and seniors. If you've got a hankering for waffles, better make your own.

Amazon kills Kmart

Kmarts still exist? Yes. But maybe not for long. The mass retailer pummeled by Amazon and overshadowed by Target and Walmart announced it's closing 64 stores. That's in addition to the 68 Kmart closings announced in April. Here's a full list to check whether your store is getting the ax. They're closing mid-December -- just in time to stock up on stocking stuffers.

Want the Short List delivered straight to your inbox? Sign up!

This is a compilation of stories across USA TODAY.

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**On Monday, Donald Trump Jr. compared Syrian **refugees** to Skittles and asked, "If I told you just three would kill you. Would you take a handful?" Well, meet one of those "skittles. " His name is Mohamad Helani and he is 13 years old. He wants to be a pilot.

DORNBIRN, Austria -- It's been a year since USA TODAY encountered 13-year-old Mohamad Helani in a rundown hostel one night in Serbia.

His family -- Syrian **refugees** from the suburbs of Damascus -- was headed north along the Balkan land route toward one of Europe's welcoming welfare states. The continent's migrant crisis subsequently swept the Helanis to Austria.

All this time and distance later, Mohamad is grasping to understand a recent spate of terrorist attacks in Europe and around the world with links to the Islamic State, including two incidents in Bavaria over the summer by asylum seekers.

"What has France done? What has Germany done? What has Belgium done? I don't understand anything. I have 100 questions, no answers," he said.

Although the Islamic State is based in Syria, which has been torn by five years of civil war, Mohamad says not all Syrians should be held responsible.

"Everyone needs to know that not every Syrian is the same as the other. There are good ones and bad ones," he said. "When the bad ones do wrong, why must the good ones also be punished?" he added, aware that a backlash against people like him was growing.

Mohamad and his brother Essam, 9, have settled into school here. They made friends with other new arrivals as well as from the wider community in Dornbirn, a prosperous market town in Austria's Alpine Rhine Valley.

Mom and dad -- Reem and Jehad Helani -- have been busy with asylum applications, classes to learn German, re-thinking their job prospects, keeping up with loved ones back home and, for the first time in a long while, caring for Mohamad and Essam with a roof over their heads. Life now includes soccer games, walks in the woods, homework.

Mohamad is not an ordinary boy by most standards.

He is the only one in his family who speaks English -- and now German -- and easily mingles with young and old. He is the one who buys the tickets for the train or bus and knows when and where to get off. When Austrian officials come with a request, Mohamad picks up the phone to call whoever is needed. He is quick to intervene, quicker to offer help. When the Helanis need to go somewhere together, he is the one who gets everyone out the door on time.

Mohamad even got permission from Austria's **immigration** authorities so USA TODAY could observe the Helanis during their final interview to be granted asylum -- a defining moment in their years-long escape from death and destruction in Syria.

After months of not knowing how long they would be allowed to stay in Austria -- if they would even be allowed to stay -- they had one last interview.

The waiting area was in a cramped reception room, part of a featureless office that was hastily erected in a police station to process asylum seekers.

"This is so crazy. In Austria, this is allowed," Mohamad said, holding an accordion-folded cultural guide with drawings of Austrian do's and don'ts.

One illustration showed a woman kissing another woman on the mouth. "Allowed. Crazy," Mohamad repeated, with a look of wonder.

"My father plays soccer every Sunday. He plays against Iraqis and beats them, because they are always arguing and disorganized," he added, seemingly apropos of nothing.

Most of the time spent waiting -- about three hours -- passed this way, hopping from one anecdote to another. Several minutes were killed measuring Mohamad's height. Throughout the wait, Mohamad tapped on an empty plastic juice bottle or fidgeted with a pair of tangled earbuds. Wriggle. Squirm. Tap.

A few times he approached the assistant at the counter to help translate for a fellow traveler. "Wrong papers, wrong office, wrong day, wrong time," he whispered after sitting back down.

His brother was at school. His parents sat in silence. On the wall behind them were a few bulletins with information for asylum seekers about how to return to Afghanistan, Eritrea, Iraq, Pakistan. One poster, aimed at Nigerians, touted the benefits of a "fresh start" and "new prospects" available if a person's asylum petition is rejected or still awaiting a response.

Every few minutes mom would turn to Mohamad and flash a smile that had the tiniest bit of laughter in it. For all their trials and tribulations -- perhaps because of them -- the Helanis have not forgotten their biggest asset: each other.

"School is so much less boring than this," Mohamad said after a while. Wriggle. Squirm. Tap. "So much less. "

The Helani family's predicament has been turning around in Mohamad's head lately.

He was more anxious than on the two previous meetups with USA TODAY. That first time he expertly diffused an argument between his father and a hostel owner in Serbia over how much the room would cost. Four months later in Dornbirn, he proudly showed off his new bike, gave a tour of his new school in freshly fallen snow and said over and over how happy he was.

"The Austrian people they are so nice," Mohamad said in January, while pelting Essam with snowballs in their front yard.

But his new sense of disquiet was obviously not related to the asylum interview.

"I really hope nothing happens in Austria," Mohamad said over the phone several weeks later. The result the Helanis hoped for finally came through: A five-year residence permit was approved. They could start looking for work, move out of the temporary apartment they had been given and even travel.

Mohamad was relieved but struggled to convey enthusiasm. "If there is an attack, there will be problems for us, people will accuse us, I know it," he said, as his voice trailed off on the phone.

(In August, there was an incident in Austria. Police said an attacker who stabbed two people on a train near the Swiss border was a 60-year-old German national. )

He also worried about where they would live. Now that their asylum was approved, they would need to move out of the government-provided apartment. But prices in Dornbirn were high, and they were finding that most landlords didn't want to rent to **refugees**.

He wanted to change the subject.

The whole family, he said, recently performed in a local production of a play -- The Birds by the ancient Greek playwright Aristophanes. It was about two old Athenians determined to build a city in the sky free from the influence of man.

"Some of the birds are bad, some are angry, others are happy or sad, and there is a man in the play who wants to unite them all," Mohamad explained. "We were all birds. Five small birds. "

USA TODAY reporter Kim Hjelmgaard followed migrants last year on their arduous 1,500-mile journey from Greece to Germany. A year later he remains in touch with one family who settled in Austria.

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**NEW YORK -- World leaders who gathered at a **refugee** summit Tuesday pledged $4. 5 billion more in **refugee** aid and announced efforts to double the number of **refugees** resettled each year.

The new commitments come as the world attempts to cope with a mounting **refugee** crisis that has displaced more people than at any time since World War II. Fueled by conflicts in Syria, Afghanistan and Somalia, the number of **refugees** is now at 65. 3 million and rising, according to the U. N. High Commissioner for **Refugees**.

"We are facing a crisis of epic proportions," President Obama told the Leaders Summit on **Refugees** at the United Nations. "Those girls being trafficked and tortured, those could be our daughters. That boy on the beech could be our son, or grandson. "

Obama, one of six leaders co-hosting the summit, came to the United Nations Tuesday with commitments from 51 U. S. companies who have agreed to help in the form of education, employment and $650 million in donations. They include a $1 million initiative by actor George Clooney and his Lebanese wife, Amal, to educate Syrian **refugees** in Lebanon.

The Obama administration has announced that it will increase the worldwide limit on **refugees** entering the United States from 85,000 in 2016 to 110,000 in 2017. Other countries at the summit made similar announcements, with their leaders coming to the podium one by one to tell stories about **refugee** families and proclaim their commitments.

They pledged to help increase school enrollment for **refugees**, ease restrictions on employment and housing, and provide **refugees** legalized status. The prime minister of Ethiopia, for example, said he would lift a longstanding ban on **refugees** working outside of camps.

But Obama also called on the world community to address the root causes of displacement. "If we truly want to address the crisis, wars like the savagery in Syria must be brought to an end. And it will brought to an end through political settlement and diplomacy, and not simply by bombing," he said.

Earlier in the day, Obama told the entire U. N. General Assembly that nations needed to follow through on their pledges "even when the politics are hard. "

"There are a lot of nations right now that are doing the right thing," Obama said. But he said many others -- "particularly those blessed with wealth and the benefits of geography" can do more.

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**[1]

Love is dead

If you spit out your latte in horror or cried in the arms of a stranger Tuesday after getting on Twitter, we totally get it. Brad and Angelina getting a divorce after 12 years (two of them officially married) and six children together is shocking. They literally WERE #relationshipgoals. Half the world is in mourning right now, and half the world is disgusted we care more about one celebrity couple than we do about Syria (probably including Angelina Jolie, who's been asking us to address the global **refugee** crisis for years). Sure, the couple's demise may have been written in their Hollywood DNA, but that doesn't mean we didn't get tricked into believing a gorgeous couple with amazing careers, model kids and more money than God could have it all. The two have always denied they got together while making Mr. and Mrs. Smith (when Pitt was still married to Jennifer Aniston), but Team Jen never bought it, and on Tuesday her fans chanted "K-A-R-M-A. " No matter what you believe, it's impossible not to feel bad for the Jolie-Pitts. Happily ever after, it seems, is more elusive than any of us would like to think. Even for #Brangelina.

'Looks like a bad dude'

"Hands up, don't shoot," became a rallying cry after Michael Brown was killed in 2014 in Ferguson, Mo. Terence Crutcher had his hands up. Police shot. The ACLU of Oklahoma said: "A Tulsa police officer murdered Terence Crutcher in cold blood. " A lawyer for Officer Betty Shelby told the Tulsa World that Crutcher reached toward or into his pockets several times, despite Shelby ordering him not to do so, and that she believed Crutcher was acting like he might be on PCP. In a video of the incident, theTulsa Police Department can be heard saying Crutcher "looks like a bad dude. " Crutcher's twin sister later said, "That 'big bad dude' was a father . . . a son. " It's the latest death of an unarmed person of color at the hands of police, following those of Eric Garner, Paul O'Neal, Samuel DuBose and others who inspired the Black Lives Matter movement.

Wells Fargo CEO: Sorry. Also, it wasn't a scheme. Also, I'm keeping my money

Wells Fargo admitted this month that thousands of its employees had signed up customers for accounts they did not authorize and knew nothing about. CEO John Stumpf kind of apologized Tuesday in front of the Senate Banking Committee. It went like this (paraphrased): Sorry our employees opened millions of secret accounts without customers' permission in order to meet sales goals. We didn't \*tell\* them to do it. And I know a lot of people lost their jobs because of this, but me and (community banking chief) Carrie Tolstedt are gonna keep our money. She did other good things. The unusually bipartisan response can be summed up in one word uttered incredulously by Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass. : "Seriously?!" Lessons learned from the 2008 financial crisis, combined with tough new regulations, were supposed to ensure these types of shenanigans are a thing of the past, right? Guess not. And, really, it's just the latest regulatory black eye for Wells Fargo.

Warning signs

Two years before the bombings in New York and New Jersey, the FBI investigated suspect Ahmad Rahami after his father allegedly called him a terrorist during a domestic dispute with his brother. A federal law enforcement official told USA TODAY the matter was closed when investigators found nothing to substantiate it. But that domestic dispute wasn't Rahami's only brush with authorities. In 2008, he was ordered to undergo a paternity test and later to pay child support. In 2012, he was accused of violating a domestic violence restraining order. In recent years, he visited Afghanistan a number of times and was questioned upon his return each time. Friends, who said he was "great guy" in high school, also said he changed after these visits. A rambling note that federal officials say was found on Rahami makes references the 2009 Fort Hood, Texas, shooting and the 2013 Boston Marathon bombings.

L'eggo your Eggo

Eggo waffles were trending on Twitter, and not because Donald Trump Jr. compared them to Syrian **refugees** (hello, that was Skittles). No, the frozen breakfast item that should be enjoying a Stranger Things-inspired surge right now, instead has been recalled by Kellogg's due to listeria concerns. Listeria is a bacteria that can cause nausea and diarrhea and turn deadly in babies, pregnant women and seniors. If you've got a hankering for waffles, better make your own.

Amazon kills Kmart

Kmarts still exist? Yes. But maybe not for long. The mass retailer pummeled by Amazon and overshadowed by Target and Walmart announced it's closing 64 stores. That's in addition to the 68 Kmart closings announced in April. Here's a full list to check whether your store is getting the ax. They're closing mid-December -- just in time to stock up on stocking stuffers.

Want the Short List delivered straight to your inbox? Sign up!

This is a compilation of stories across USA TODAY.

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**NEW YORK -- President Obama held a strategy session with his Iraqi counterpart Monday as coalition forces begin an effort to take the Islamic State stronghold of Mosul.

"This is going to be a challenging battle. Mosul is a large city, and ISIL has embedded itself deeply in that city," Obama said after meeting with Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi in New York. "It will be a tough fight. "

But he said that the close cooperation between U. S. , Iraqi and Kurdish forces should lead to quick progress.

And Abadi seemed even more optimistic, saying Mosul could be taken "in the next few months. "

"We are going to kick Daesh out of Mosul," Abadi said, using another name for the Islamic State group, "and deal a huge blow to what Daesh believes in. They must be crushed on the ground, and our heroic fighters are doing that. "

The northern Iraqi city, once the county's second-largest with more than two million people, has been occupied by the Islamic State for more than two years. Along with the de facto capital in the Syrian city of Raqqa, it's one of two strongholds that the U. S. and allied forces plan to pressure in simultaneous assaults that it hopes will cripple the terrorist group's military power in the region.

But Obama said Monday that the mission can't end there. He said the United States needs to be ready to provide immediate humanitarian aid to the city, rebuilding it "in a way that assures not only ISIL does not come back, but that extremist ideology born out of desperation will not return. "

Obama's meeting with Abadi was one of several high-level meetings Obama is planning with world leaders in New York this week, as he also addresses the United Nations General Assembly and a related **refugee** summit.

In an earlier closed-door meeting with Chinese Premier Li Keqiang, Obama discussed the North Korean nuclear threat, climate change, and trade. And in a phone call with President Kenyan Uhuru Kenyatta, Obama talked about **refugee** issues, terrorism and the upcoming elections.

Later this week, Obama will have meetings with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari, and Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos.

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**The protesters whose armed siege at an Oregon wildlife **refuge** last winter brought national attention to federal land management practices in the vast expanses of the West are now making their last stand, in a courthouse in Portland.

The trial began this week for protest leader Ammon Bundy and six others charged with conspiring to impede federal land managers through force and intimidation. Five of the defendants also face gun charges.

Bundy's lawyer, Marcus Mumford, says the standoff had nothing to do with impeding federal workers and everything to do with demanding federal accountability. He told the jury the takeover of administrative offices at the Malheur National Wildlife **Refuge** was an attempt at legally taking title to the land by occupying it for an extended period of time.

Prosecutor Geoffrey Barrow dismisses the claims, saying the men are being tried not for what they believe but for their actions at the **refuge**, 300 square miles of wind-swept, high desert in rural eastern Oregon. The 42-day protest made national news but had little practical impact, Notre Dame law professor Bruce Huber told USA TODAY.

"If anything, officials seem to be using more stern language than before Malheur," said Huber, who specializes in natural resources.

Bundy's group of self-described patriots took control of the **refuge** Jan. 2 following a local protest in support of two ranchers sent to prison for starting fires on federal land. Bundy and many ranchers say tough federal restrictions on grazing and other uses threaten their way of life.

The federal government, and particularly the Bureau of Land Management, plays a crucial role in land use in the West. The government owns more than half of Oregon's land and almost 40% of all the land in Arizona, where Bundy owns a truck maintenance shop.

The standoff featured press conferences, a social media campaign and a flow of flow of protesters in and out of the compound unimpeded by law enforcement. The occupiers sought clemency for the imprisoned ranchers and to jump-start the slumping local economy by transferring federally managed range land to local or private hands.

"Government is laws, not men," Elizabeth Sanders, who teaches government at Cornell University, told USA TODAY. "You work to get laws passed, you make a statement with civil disobedience, but you don't just show up with guns and take what you want. That is not how it works. "

During the standoff, community meetings in rural Harney County drew plenty of residents who expressed support for the occupiers' motives. But they overwhelmingly opposed the standoff and repeatedly asked Bundy's band to leave peacefully.

The standoff turned deadly on Jan. 26, when the group's spokesman, Robert "LaVoy" Finicum, was fatally shot by state police who stopped Finicum, Bundy and several others at roadblock. Bundy urged protesters remaining at the **refuge** to end the standoff, and the last holdouts surrendered Feb. 11. More than two dozen protesters faced conspiracy charges, and many have pleaded out. Seven face trial early next year.

Huber says prosecutors are clearly "taking a no-nonsense approach," making no concessions to the defendants in pretrial proceedings.

"In terms of public land affairs, it's been business as usual," Huber said. "BLM has given no indication that they intend to pursue gentler policies with respect to public lands ranchers. And in other areas of land management, most notably federal coal leasing, the BLM has not shied away from taking positions that make it very unpopular in the rural West. "

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**The White House plans to sharply increase the number of **refugees** accepted by the United States to 110,000 in the fiscal year that begins Oct. 1, saying the move is necessary to help stem a migrant crisis gripping Europe and the Middle East.

The new target is a 29% increase over the 85,000 **refugees** accepted this fiscal year and a 57% hike over the 70,000 **refugees** allowed per year from 2013 to 2015.

Secretary of State John Kerry informed members of Congress about the proposed increase Tuesday, according to a senior administration official who was not authorized to discuss the change publicly.

Obama and Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton have said the U. S needs to do more to help ease the burden on countries in Europe and elsewhere that have accepted millions of migrants fleeing war and famine in the Middle East and Africa.

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump has called for the opposite approach, saying the U. S. needs to better screen migrants who may be terrorists. He initially called for a temporary ban on **immigrants** from all Muslim nations, but has since refined his stance to say would-be **refugees** from countries with known ties to terrorism require "extreme vetting" before being admitted to the U. S.

Much of the debate over **refugees** has focused on the 11 million people who have fled Syria as a bloody civil war continues into its sixth year. The Obama administration has argued that Syrian **refugees** undergo extensive background checks, a process that can last up to two years, as U. S. and United Nations officials verify asylum seekers' stories and check possible ties to terrorist organizations.

The White House announced last month that the U. S. had accepted its 10,000th Syrian **refugee** of the year, and press secretary Josh Earnest said Obama was "gratified" that the administration had reached its annual goal. Clinton has said she would raise that ceiling even higher if elected president.

Republican lawmakers and governors have fought back, arguing that the Islamic State and other terrorist groups will try to exploit the **refugee** program to slip operatives into the United States.

Sen. Jeff Sessions, R-Ala. , a Trump adviser on **immigration** and **refugee** issues, said **refugees** from Syria have caused mayhem throughout Europe and could do the same in the U. S. if more are accepted. He said U. S. officials cannot conduct thorough background checks, since Syria is in the middle of a war and criminal records are difficult, if not impossible, to find.

Rep. Bob Goodlatte, R-Va. , chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, said Obama's ability to unilaterally increase the number of **refugees** is a reminder why the country's **refugee** laws need to be updated.

"We must remain compassionate toward **refugees**, but we also need to make sure that we use common sense," Goodlatte said in a statement. Obama "continues to ignore warnings from his own national security officials and plans to bring in even more Syrian **refugees** over the next year. "

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**The Syrian army announced Monday that a cease-fire has begun, making it the third major truce since Russia began its bombing campaign in Syria a year ago in support of President Bashar Assad.

Assad and allies Russia and Iran have endorsed the brokered cease-fire, which began around noon ET. But why should the five-year Syrian civil war matter to the United States and Americans?

Humanitarian crisis worsens

The Syrian civil war is as one of the worst humanitarian catastrophes in the world. Hundreds of thousands of people have been killed in the bloody conflict and 11 million Syrians -- half the country's pre-war population -- have been forced from their homes. They are a big reason why Europe is beset by the largest influx of **refugees** since World War II.

The cease-fire calls for Russia and the United States to allow humanitarian aid to reach Aleppo and other cities under siege by government forces -- and eventual talks about a political transition to a post-Assad government.

The truce comes as many cities have been devastated by airstrikes and residents are desperate for food, water and medicine.

Defeating Islamic State in Syria key to U. S. -led campaign

A U. S. -led coalition has been battling the Islamic State since terrorist fighters shocked the world by seizing vast sections of Iraq in 2014 from their de facto headquarters in Syria. More recently as the Islamic State has lost territory to the U. S-led coalition in Iraq and Syria, the militant group has staged or encouraged terrorist attacks around the world.

Assad vowed Monday to "retake every area from the terrorists. " The cease-fire agreement does not block attacks on the Islamic State and the Nusra Front, another terrorist group with a history of links to al-Qaeda.

If the cease-fire holds, the agreement could set the stage in a week for Russia and the United States to work together by sharing intelligence and coordinating targets against the Islamic State and al-Qaeda in Syria. The mass killings in Orlando and San Bernardino, Calif. , were committed by individuals who said they were supporters of the Islamic State, also known as ISIL or ISIS.

Syrian **refugees** seek home in U. S.

The heart-wrenching plight of desperate Syrians and other **refugees** from war-torn countries fleeing by land or sea is its own humanitarian crisis.

The United States accepted the 10,000th **refugee** from Syria in late August as part of President Obama's policy to vastly increase the number of humanitarian admissions from the war-torn country. The Republican Congress and GOP presidential candidate Donald Trump have been critical of accepting Syrian **refugees**for fear that some admitted will commit terrorist attacks.

Press Secretary Josh Earnest suggested that Obama would like to admit even more Syrians in the next fiscal year, which begins Oct. 1. "I think the president would like to see the United States continue to increase our ambition in responding to this global calamity," he said. The goal for next year, he said, would be "a few thousand over 10,000. "

The United States accepted fewer than 1,700 Syrian **refugees** in fiscal year 2015 after conducting what the State Department says has been a very rigorous screening of the backgrounds of asylum seekers to assure they do not pose a risk to the U. S.

Contributing: Oren Dorell, Gregory Korte

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**Where does Donald Trump stand on issues of importance to small businesses? The short answer is "Who knows?" Trump changes his positions quicker than Taylor Swift changes boyfriends.

On Aug. 8, Trump unveiled his economic plan in a speech in Detroit. From that speech and other positions he's made throughout the campaign, we can try to navigate the haze of where Trump stands on matters important to small-business owners and entrepreneurs. Taxes. Trump's main business tax policy is that "No American company will pay more than 15% of their business income in taxes. " Sounds good, but don't spend your tax savings yet. Your small business is almost certainly taxed on a "pass-through" basis, meaning income is taxed as individual income, not corporate income. Only "C" corporations are likely to benefit from Trump's cut. So big corporations and fewer than 8% of small companies would save on taxes. Good for your competitors. New business formation. Reading from prepared remarks rather than speaking off-the-cuff, Trump said, "You cannot ever start a small business under the tremendous regulatory burden you have today in our country. " Trump is just plain off the wall here. In 2015, there were 669,917 new employer businesses, and in 2014 there were 831,317 new "non-employer" businesses, according to the U. S. Census. More than 1 million businesses get started every year. Estate taxes. About 10 years ago, it was popular to rage against the "death tax. " That disappeared as a talking point because the very rich pay virtually all estate taxes. Only 30 farms and closely held businesses paid ANY estate taxes in 2015, and the top 1/10th of 1% of all taxpayers -- the uber rich -- paid 35% of all estate taxes. So, Trump's plan on estate taxes is basically a "save billionaire's rich kids some money" plan.

Of course, when assessing the impact of a Trump presidency, small-business owners may want to consider other positions he's taken and other aspects of Trump's background. **Immigration**. Trump rose to prominence by stoking anti-**immigrant** fervor. He's promised to deport all illegal **immigrants**, build a wall with Mexico, and refuse to allow any Muslims from entering the country. Trump's anti-**immigrant** comments have increased antagonism to all **immigrants**, legal or not. However, **immigrants** start businesses at twice the rate of native-born and were responsible for 28. 5% of all new businesses in 2014. Making America a less inviting place for **immigrants** will negatively affect overall economic growth and job creation, certainly bad for small companies. Trade. Trump consistently calls for raising tariffs on imported goods and renegotiating or stopping trade agreements. Economic experts believe this could lead to trade wars. The impact on small businesses? Small exporters are likely to be hit, as other countries retaliate and impose tariffs or limit imports. Small manufacturers serving the domestic market might be somewhat better able to withstand foreign competition. Trump's track record on dealing with small businesses. Trump has left a trail of mistreated small-business vendors who've done business with his company. They've complained about not being paid, being paid far less than agreed upon, or Trump declaring bankruptcy to avoid paying creditors. In an exposé, the New York Daily News showed that after 9/11, Trump applied for, and received, a $150,000 grant that was set aside to help small businesses recover. Of course, the most important question is whether you think Donald Trump has the temperament, the judgment and the competence to be president of the United States and leader of the free world. Leaders in the business, technology and foreign policy communities -- many life-long Republicans -- doubt that he does.

As a small-business owner, I know that nothing affects the health of my business -- no specific policy or decision -- as much as the health of the overall economy. Hundreds of business leaders, including billionaire investor Warren Buffett, HP's Meg Whitman, Alphabet's Eric Schmidt, Michael Bloomberg and the founders of Costco, Airbnb, SalesForce, Dish Network and many more, see Trump as a threat to the economic vitality of this country. That's a risk most small-business owners shouldn't want to take. Rhonda Abrams is the author of 19 books including "Successful Business Plan: Secrets & Strategies" now in its sixth edition. Connect with Rhonda facebook. com/RhondaAbramsSmallBusiness and twitter: @RhondaAbrams. Register for Rhonda's free business tips newsletter at www. PlanningShop. com

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**This week we found out that despite the fact that Hillary Clinton was handling some of the most sensitive information in the world, no one ever trained her on what was right and wrong. Also, Donald Trump continued to confuse us on his **immigration** stance and everybody still hates their choices for president. Just over two months until election day. . .

For the record note: We're going to be by the pool this weekend pretending the real world doesn't exist; no newsletter Monday. We'll see you Tuesday.

No one told Clinton about how to handle classified emails

On Friday the FBI released a partially-redacted interview with Clinton + a nice big summary of their investigation into her private email server. A big find out of the 11-page interview? Clinton couldn't remember anyone telling her how to properly handle or retain classified information. The interview also included Clinton's claims that the private email server was used "out of convenience" and that former secretary of State Colin Powell talked to her about how he did it.

Other finds: Clinton's email server had not been hacked, according to the FBI, but they couldn't say the same for the 13 Blackberry devices she used while she was at State. Those weren't available. Also, Clinton used three different iPads during that time -- the two of those that were analyzed also weren't hacked. The other one wasn't available.

The Trump campaign loved all of the email drama, forwarding out a summary of "ten different discoveries in the FBI report" that show "her blatant disregard for the classification system. "

"Hillary Clinton is applying for a job that begins each day with a Top Secret intelligence briefing, and the notes from her FBI interview reinforce her tremendously bad judgment and dishonesty," spokesman Jason Miller said in a statement. "Clinton's secret email server was an end run around government transparency laws that wound up jeopardizing our national security and sensitive diplomatic efforts. "

Trump will be both soft and hard on **immigration**

Donald Trump wants to be loved by the **immigration** hard-liners and the **immigration** soft-liners. And over the last two weeks he's said his plan is open to a "softening" and a "hardening. " This week we saw just that. Trump met with the President of Mexico where he raved about the country and said they had mutual **immigration** goals (softie. ) That night he gave an **immigration** speech where he said "you cannot obtain legal status or become a citizen of the United States by illegally entering our country. . . . Those days are over" (not soft. )

His critics responded with "we told you so! He's still just as intense on **immigration** as ever!" and some of his Hispanic advisers said that they could no longer support him.

But Trump went on the radio Thursday morning and basically said "wait don't leave. You want softening? I'll still soften. " Never mind that he didn't provide any soft details.

We don't even want to win anymore

A USA TODAY/Suffolk University poll found that supporters of both major presidential candidates are voting more out of fear than excitement about their candidate. Depressingly, 80% of Trump supporters and 62% of Clinton supporters say if the other candidate wins, they would feel "scared. " A mere 27% of Clinton supporters and 29% of Trump supporters would feel "excited" by a win of the candidate they support. Instead, the majority of people would feel "satisfied" if their candidate won -- 62% of Clinton supporters and 52% of Trump supporters.

The poll found that Clinton is ahead of Trump by 7 points nationally, 48%-41%. Libertarian Gary Johnson had 9%, Green Party candidate Jill Stein had 4%. Another tidbit: More than half of Clinton supporters said they'd be willing to split the ticket and vote for a Republican down-ballot.

News from the trail

Want to dial for Donald Trump? Promise not to insult Barron (Cincinnati Enquirer)Clinton's fundraising tour paid off (USA TODAY)Hillary Clinton isn't sick but conspiracy theorists are winning Google (USA TODAY)Presidential debate moderators were announced (USA TODAY)Putin says DNC hack was public service, but Russia had nothing to do with it (USA TODAY)

Stein mixes up her cities

The Green Party candidate meant to go to Columbus, Ohio for a rally on Friday but she accidentally landed in Cincinnati. Thankfully her supporters' impatience was calmed with pizza while they waited.

**NEW\_DOCUMENT\_HERE**BERLIN -- A right wing, anti-**immigrant** party stands to make strong election gains Sunday in Chancellor Angela Merkel's home state, a potential embarrassment for the German leader's liberal **refugee** policy.

The vote in the Baltic Sea region of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania will test the resilience of Merkel's conservative Christian Democratic Union and other mainstream parties ahead of next year's federal elections. Another upcoming gauge will be the Sept. 18 regional election in Berlin.

The anti-**immigrant** Alternative for Germany (AfD) party has been buoyed by dissatisfaction with Merkel's decision last year to take in more than 1 million asylum seekers, mostly Muslims.

"If we want to feel like we're still in Germany, we need to send a stop signal," AfD candidate Lars Loewe told a rally Monday in Wismar, a town in Mecklenburg. AfD has repeatedly attacked Merkel's "we can manage" approach to asylum seekers, and that appears to be working.

A campaign poster by the party drives home that point by saying: "His Moroccan drug dealer gets his whole life paid for by the state. Something is super rotten in Germany and that's why he's voting for Alternative for Deutschland. "

"The **refugee** issue has helped AfD a lot, and it reflects political **alienation**," said Josef Janning with the Berlin office of the European Council on Foreign Relations. He said the party's popularity in Mecklenburg was somewhat surprising, because relatively few **immigrants** live there -- about 4%, compared to 11% nationally.

A poll by the political research Insa Institute shows AfD could win 23% in Sunday's vote, while Merkel's party would get 20%. When Merkel's party is combined with its governing coalition partner, the left-leaning Social Democratic Party, which is polling at 28%, the result could be enough to retain power in the northeastern state.

"What everybody's worried about is that we're going to experience a re-run of what happened in March, when the established parties were crushed," said Michael Broening, a senior policy analyst at Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, a political foundation with links to the Social Democratic Party.

"If we witness a surge in support for AfD, then things might become increasingly difficult for the heads of the established parties," he said.

In March elections, the AfD scored strong enough results to be represented in eight of Germany's 16 state parliaments. At the last federal election in 2013, the party narrowly missed the 5% vote threshold for entering the Bundestag, Germany's national parliament.

Merkel's popularity rating has slumped to 45% since she opened Germany's borders to asylum seekers, down from 75% before the flood of migrants created a European-wide crisis in 2015.

In Berlin's mid-September election, AfD has weaker support than in Merkel's home state, but backing for her party has dropped over the past year and may hit a record low.

Merkel has not said whether she will run for chancellor in next year's election, telling a German television interviewer Sunday that she would "report on that at the appropriate time. " Half of voters don't want her to pursue a fourth term, according to a recent poll for the Bild am Sonntag newspaper.

She reacted to the poll with characteristic calm. "We must draw (voters) back with solutions and actions," Merkel said on the campaign trail Monday in Schwerin, the capital of Mecklenburg. "We can only win them back if we solve the problems. "

Broening said he thinks Merkel will run.

"She probably feels like she's a captain who can't leave the ship or it will be perceived as sinking. There's not really an alternative," he said. "If we see a terror attack in Berlin, if there's another (sexual assault) event like in Cologne over New Year's, if the deal with Turkey (to return migrants) falls through and the **refugee** crisis escalates again with hundreds of thousands of people marching toward Germany's borders, that will change things. But short of that she'll run again -- and she'll win. "

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